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*Appendix II—Statement showing the work transacted during the One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Session of the Rajya Sabha, will be included in September 2000 issue of the *Journal* (Vol. XLVI, No.3)

EDITORIAL NOTE

The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of article 86(1) of the Constitution. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the First Session after General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the First Session of each year, the President shall address members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.

On 23 February 2000, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the First Session of Parliament in 2000. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address by the President.

The Central Hall of Parliament House is well remembered for the historic transfer of power from British to Indian hands which took place on the midnight of 14-15 August 1947 in this Hall. The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Central Hall to draft the Constitution of free India. In later years, several distinguished Heads of State and Government have addressed members of Parliament in the Central Hall. On 22 March 2000, His Excellency, Mr. William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States of America, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament in the Central Hall at a function organised under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG). In his address, His Excellency, President Clinton appreciated the path of mutual respect and tolerance which India has shown as the key to our common survival. He felt that as some thing which the whole world needs to learn. President Clinton observed that India taught humanity some very basic lessons, the most important among them being the successful practice of democracy. He further said that far from wishing away the uniqueness of Indian culture, Indian democracy has brought out the richness of its tapestry and given India a knot that holds it

together. The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant welcomed the visiting dignitary to the function. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi also addressed the distinguished gathering on the occasion. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

The role and value of the mass media to society have invariably been termed as crucial, paramount and inalienable. A free, responsible and diverse media is as vital to parliamentary government as democracy is to the maintenance of the freedom of the press. The relationship between Parliament and media has always been a subject of intense debate. As a vital link between the people and the leadership, the media helps the decision-makers to understand the pulse of the society. A Conference on 'Parliament and the Media: Building an Effective Relationship' was organised under the joint auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU), the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) and the Commonwealth Broadcasters Association (CBA) in conjunction with the World Bank Institute, the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Parliament of India in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi from 14 to 18 February 2000. In all, 57 Delegates from 17 countries attended the Conference.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant on 15 February 2000 in the Main Committee Room of Parliament House Annexe. The function was also addressed by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, the Speaker of the House of Assembly of St. Lucia, Mr. Mathew Roberts, the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley and Mr. Rick Stapenhurst of the World Bank. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed welcomed the Delegates to the Conference.

The aim of the Conference was to examine the most effective ways in which the media's democratic functions could be performed. The Conference, among other things, sought to explore how the media and the parliamentarians could properly advance democratic values in the society and play the full and appropriate role in the political process and to explore the effects of new communication technologies on the institution of Parliament and on political coverage. The Conference had five *Plenary Sessions* on "Understanding each other: Allies or Adversaries",

"Should the media be self-regulating?"; "Cross-border Information Systems: The regulatory problems?"; "Making Parliament Newsworthy"; and "The Ethics of the Relationship". There were four *Workshops* on : "Freedom of Information Legislation and Human Rights"; "Subjectivity and Objectivity in Political Reporting"; "Press Freedom versus Invasion of Privacy"; and "Who should own the Media?" The Conference concluded on 18 February 2000, after adopting several recommendations "to make Parliament the main game in the politics of each Commonwealth country."

An article titled 'Conference on "Parliament and the Media: Building an Effective Relationship" is included in this issue of the *Journal* which highlights the varied activities that took place during the Conference.

Besides, we carry in this issue, our other regular Features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

We would like to convey our warmest congratulations to all the newly-elected members of the Rajya Sabha. We also extend our hearty felicitations to Shri Arun Govardhandas Gujarathi, Dr. S. Dhananjoy Singh and Shri Satbir Singh Kadian on their election as the Speaker of the Maharashtra, Manipur and Haryana Legislative Assemblies, respectively.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem-oriented non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—G.C. Malhotra
Editor

1

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together. The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of articles 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution. Under art. 86(1), the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members. Art. 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the First Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the First Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. The Address contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the Sessions to be held that year.

On 23 February 2000, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed the members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the First Session of Parliament in 2000.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first Session of Parliament in the year 2000. I felicitate the members and extend to all of you my best wishes for the successful completion of the budgetary and legislative business that lies ahead.

Last month India completed fifty years as a Republic. It was a proud moment in the history of this ancient civilization, which re-emerged as a free and democratic nation in the modern era. For all of us, the last fifty years have been a period of triumph and tribulation, of achievement and shortfalls. The Golden Jubilee of our Republic is, hence, an occasion for both celebration and reflection.

If the global march of democracy was the hallmark of the 20th Century, India has won worthy laurels for not only being the largest democracy in the world, but also zealously preserving it against all odds. The entire world looks to India with hope and expectation. Our founding fathers did their duty by giving us a great Republican Constitution. It is now our responsibility to transform our democracy into an effective instrument for the economic, social and cultural development of every Indian. As the Father of the Nation always exhorted us during our struggle for freedom, we must ensure that the first claim on the fruits of development belongs to the poor and the weak.

The Constitution, which India adopted fifty years ago, has served us well. It has been a reliable guarantor of parliamentary democracy, secularism and fundamental rights, which all of us cherish. It has also inspired the spread of democratic consciousness in our society, empowering *dalits*, *adivasis*, backward classes and women and making our system of government more participative and progressive. While keeping the basic structure and salient features of the Constitution inviolate, it has, however, become necessary to examine the experience of the past fifty years to better achieve the ideals enshrined in the Constitution. The Government has, therefore, set up a broad-based Constitution Review Commission. The recommendations of this Commission will be presented before Parliament, which is the supreme decision-making body in India democracy.

India has undoubtedly had many spectacular achievements in the past five decades. There is no other experiment in human history where a billion people, belonging to so many different traditions, are living and striving together for a better life without being denied their rights and freedoms. We cannot, however, be satisfied with this alone. As the experience of the many newly-independent and developing nations has shown, fifty years is a long time to achieve all-round progress for all. If the first half-century of our Republic makes any demand on us, it is simply this: we must lose no more time to eradicate mass poverty, remove illiteracy and assure basic minimum services to all our fellow citizens. While accomplishing this historic task, we must simultaneously strengthen social justice, promote gender justice, remove regional imbalances and bridge the rural-urban divide.

India cannot achieve the strength and prosperity that we all desire, and that our country is capable of, if vast areas and large sections of our population remain deprived and poor. Faster economic growth is a pre-condition for removing social and regional imbalances in development. The economic reforms started in the beginning of the last decade,

with the express intention of accelerating economic growth, were a historical necessity. The shortcomings that have crept into our development process over the decades needed to be removed. It is a matter of pride and satisfaction that our country has implemented these reforms without social unrest and with a high degree of political consensus. These reforms are now yielding desired results in several areas. The sustainable rate of growth of our economy has increased. Our industry and financial system have become stronger and more competitive.

The Government is committed to accelerating the pace of economic reforms and to broadening their scope. At the same time, we shall make conscious and concerted efforts to bring the fruits of economic reforms to those regions and communities that have so far not benefited from them. The approach to India's economic development may have changed in the past ten years, but the goals of equity and social justice have not. We shall re-double our efforts to ensure that the poor and the deprived have an even greater stake in economic reforms than at present. We realize that this is essential for mobilizing people's enthusiastic participation in the development process.

The "Agenda for a Proud, Prosperous India", which is the common policy document of the Government of the National Democratic Alliance, provides the framework for faster development with equity and employment. The Government's record of speeding up the work of taking decisions on policy issues and the passage of pending legislation shows its determination to fulfil the promises made in this Agenda. The Government will continue to vigorously pursue a coherent plan of economic reforms. These reforms will cover agriculture, industry, public enterprises, fiscal consolidation and devolution, tax reform, financial sector reform and foreign investment policies. Most importantly, they will also cover policies for improving the performance of key infrastructure sectors—namely, power, roads, railways, ports, civil aviation, telecommunications and petroleum.

We are primarily a rural nation and most of our people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Therefore, development of agriculture, particularly in the rainfed and drought-prone areas where poverty is extreme, shall be accorded high priority. This would call for substantial capital formation in agriculture and investment in the areas where productivity has been relatively low. As the agriculture sector still employs about two-thirds of our total workforce, greater investment in agriculture, including agri-businesses, would be mobilized to enhance employment opportunities and create great prosperity in rural areas. The Government

will shortly finalize the National Agriculture Policy to address these issues.

At present, the programmes relating to conservation, development, and management of land resources are scattered in different Ministries and Departments in the Central Government. There is an imperative need to put in place an integrated mechanism capable of responding effectively to the challenges of managing our scarce land resources—especially those arising from globalization, liberalization and privatization. The Government will, therefore, bring all the programmes and schemes as well as the institutional infrastructure relating to land in rural areas under the control of the newly created Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Special programmes for the generation of productive wage employment in the rural areas, especially for creating permanent infrastructure assets, and self-employment opportunities for the unemployed youth will be given greater thrust. The *Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, the Jawahar Gram Samaridhi Yojana* and the restructured Employment Assurance Scheme will be vigorously implemented and closely monitored.

The process of urbanization has led to a rapid rise in the proportion of Indians living in cities and towns. Sadly, the rate of growth of urban infrastructure and civic amenities has not matched the explosion of our urban population. The Government realizes that urban renewal is critical to the emergence of a new and resurgent India. This calls for a better coordination among the Centre, States and municipal authorities to effectively implement the policies and programmes on urban employment, housing construction, transportation and other utilities. The Government will facilitate increased public and private investment in the development of physical and social infrastructure, with an emphasis on improving the living conditions of the urban poor. It will also step up efforts to promote good municipal governance.

Our nation's future lies with our children and youth. The Government will soon set up a National Commission on Children to promote and channel all the efforts in the government and non-government sectors to achieve their all-round development and to unleash their creative energies both now and when they grow up. All existing programmes for sports and youth affairs will be reviewed and re-activated to give effect to our resolve to encourage physical, social and cultural development of our young men and women.

A decision has been taken to launch *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* to

ensure that every child in the age group of six to fourteen goes to a school, or an Education Guarantee Centre, or a "Back to School Camp" by 2003. We shall intensify efforts to involve the non-governmental sector in higher and technical education. The Government proposes to come out with a policy that would fully incorporate non-governmental efforts within the national endeavour to provide Education For All.

Women constitute half of the Indian population but their status in our society is poor. They are largely excluded from decision-making in public life. No nation can progress unless its women enjoy good health, are literate and are equal partners with men in the socio-economic and political processes. Our Constitution guarantees equality and non-discrimination between men and women and we are committed to achieving this objective. The Constitution (85th Amendment) Bill, 1999, seeking to provide reservation of not less that one-third of the seats for women in the Lok Sabha and in Legislative Assemblies of States, was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the last Session. The Department of Women and Child Development will also soon finalize a National Policy for Empowerment of Women, which aims to mainstream gender into laws, policies, programmes and budgetary allocations of the Government. The *Indira Mahila Yojaya* will be made more effective and expanded to 450 more blocks.

India has one of the largest populations of older people in the world. In recent times, there has been a withering away of the joint family system, which has exposed elderly people to emotional neglect and a lack of physical support. The Government has formulated a National Policy on Older Persons and has established a National Council for Older Persons to focus on problems faced by our Senior Citizens. An Expert Committee has recently submitted a report on a proposed pension scheme for old age security, which is being examined by the Government. A decision will be taken on this scheme shortly.

When I last addressed both Houses of Parliament on 25 October 1999, I had taken the opportunity to lay before you the Medium-Term Economic Agenda of the Government. Since then, the economic data suggests a distinct upturn in the economy. Economic growth in 1999-2000 is expected to be around six per cent. Inflation has also remained well under control during the current fiscal 1999-2000. Our foreign currency reserves at over US $ 32 billion are also comfortable. There has been a general upward trend in stock indices, primarily due to the revival in the industrial sector. To build on these clear economic strengths, we must seize the opportunity to deepen and accelerate the reform process.

I am happy to say that the Government has begun to implement the Medium-Term Economic Agenda outlined by me in my last Address to Parliament. I will briefly dwell on some of these issues :

(a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 was promulgated to strengthen the TRAI. This will remove many hurdles in the path of speedy development of telecom services, increase investor confidence and create a level playing field between public and private operators. The corresponding Bill will be brought before Parliament in its current Session.

(b) A Group of Experts has been constituted to recommend a new legislation reflecting the phenomenon of the Convergence of IT, Telecom and T.V. in place of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

(c) The Government has already initiated a major programme of road construction to be called the National Highway Development Project consisting of the Golden Quadrilateral and the East-West, North-South Corridors costing Rs. 54,000 crore. We will ensure the speedy implementation of this vitally needed highway network.

(d) The Government is carrying forward the restructuring and reform process in the power sector. Emphasis has been given on development of hydel power, particularly in the North-Eastern parts of the country. The National Power Grid will be strengthened to facilitate efficient inter-regional power flows.

(e) In the petroleum sector, under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, 25 blocks have been awarded in a record time, thereby accelerating domestic exploration efforts. The Group of India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 has also finalized its recommendations and the Government will initiate early action to implement them.

(f) A Bill to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 will be introduced in the current Session of Parliament to allow Indian companies in the private sector to undertake coal mining.

(g) It has been decided to enable private participation in the airport sector through long-term leasing of airports. The existing airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta will be given out on long-term lease basis while a new international airport at Bangalore will be developed as a greenfield venture with private sector participation. This will go a long way in improving the airport infrastructure and the functioning of our airports to world class levels.

(h) The Government has also decided to take innovative steps to bring about a major improvement in the working of our ports and to develop other efficient and modern port facilities with greater private sector participation.

(i) The Information Technology Bill, 1999 to promote E-commerce was introduced in the Lok Sabha in its last Session.

(j) A National Venture Capital Fund of Rs. 100 crore for promoting new Information Technology businesses by promising entrepreneurs has been launched. Guidelines to allow acquisition of foreign companies abroad by Indian IT companies have been liberalized. To accelerate the growth of high-speed Internet Services in the country, a liberal policy for setting up international gateways and use of foreign satellites for greater bandwidth has been put in place. Further measures will soon be taken to promote the spread of the Internet and telecom services, especially in rural and backward areas.

(k) The Ministry of Information Technology is taking further initiatives to promote the development of the IT industry in the country. These include the proposal to establish the "India IT and Software Brand Equity Fund", facilitate greater usage of IT for increasing productivity in small and medium enterprises, developing Indian initiatives in E-commerce and setting up IT-enabled services and distance education programmes.

(l) The Insurance Regulation and Development Authority Act was passed by Parliament in its last Session. This will enable participation by private Indian companies in the insurance sector leading to better service to customers, as well as mobilization of larger long-term investment for faster economic development.

(m) The Government has reviewed and recast the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regime, ensuring an automatic route for FDI clearances except in a small list of carefully chosen areas. This will bring in greater transparency, cut delays and create an enabling framework to ensure FDI inflow of at least $ 10 billion a year.

(n) The Debt Recovery Tribunal Act has been amended by an Ordinance. It is one of the crucial measures underpinning financial sector reforms. The corresponding Bill for replacement of the Ordinance by an Act will be introduced in Parliament in the current Session.

(o) The Second Labour Commission has been constituted to suggest changes in various labour laws in order to achieve

the goals of labour welfare, generation of additional employment, higher investment and accelerated industrial growth.

(p) A major milestone in tax reforms was achieved with the introduction of a uniform rate of sales tax throughout the country from 1 January 2000. This was made possible by close co-opertion between the Centre and the States. As a progressive step towards further tax rationalisation, the States have also decided to move over to a Value-Added Tax (VAT) regime with effect from 1 April 2001.

(q) A large number of outdated or inessential laws and regulations have been removed from the Statute book. This is a part of the Government's continuing effort to speed up much-needed legal reforms.

However, the growing fiscal deficit continues to be an area of considerable concern. This is undoubtedly the most challenging macro-economic management problem faced by us. The deficit reduces public investment, crowds out private investment, raises interest rates and generates inflationary pressure. The burden of interest payments continues to be large at above 4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), accounting for about two-thirds of tax revenue of the Central Government net of States' share. As the interest burden on Government borrowing increases, it limits the ability of the Government to expand health and education services and anti-poverty programmes. Subsidies on non-merit goods which are currently very high have to be brought down and phased out.

For India to sustain accelerated growth with high employment coupled with modest inflation, the growing fiscal deficit needs to be contained. We have to adopt measures to curb the rising trend of Non-Plan Expenditure. These require difficult decisions relating to the quality of Government expenditure, downsizing the Government, recovery of economic cost for goods and services and greater austerity in Government spending. The programme of disinvestment and restructuring of Public Sector Undertakings also needs to be accelerated. Our tax system must be modernized for improving the Tax-to – GDP ratio. If we achieve fiscal consolidation, then given our stable macro framework, India can truly hope to achieve growth rates of well over seven per cent in the coming years. If sacrifices have to be made for achieving this challenging goal, they are well-worth making because the long-term rewards of restructuring will benefit all Indians and will far outweigh the temporary costs.

The financial condition of the States is also very worrisome. State Government finances have shown signs of rapid deterioration in the nineties. The year 1998-99 witnessed a very high gross fiscal deficit of

States amounting to more than Rs. 75,000 crore, touching a level of 4.3 per cent of GDP. This is, indeed, an unsustainable situation. The deteriorating trend in the fiscal position of State Governments needs to be urgently reversed. The Central Government has, therefore, initiated necessary measures in consultation with the States, to seek policy reforms aimed at fiscal correction and consolidation to bring about long term sustainability of the fiscal position of the States.

The Government is committed to the speedy economic development of the North-Eastern States. The North-Eastern Council is being expanded to include Sikkim and we shall strive to make it an effective agency for accelerated development of these States. In a meeting last month at Shillong, the Prime Minister, accompanied by the Home Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, reviewed development and security issues with the Governors and Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States and Sikkim. All assistance is being provided to those North-Eastern States that are affected by terrorism and anti-social activities.

The Government has announced an ambitious programme of over Rs. 10,200 crore for the socio-economic development of the North-Eastern States and Sikkim. This programme includes new initiatives in industry, health, education and security. It will also give a major impetus to infrastructure development in the region, especially power, roads, railways, airports and telecommunications. An important objective of this initiative is to create large-scale local employment. Trade with neighbouring countries is also going to be a thrust area for development of this region.

The super-cyclone that struck Orissa in end October caused the death of thousands of people and devastated the social and economic life of a large section of the State's population. The entire country participated generously in supplementing the Government's efforts to mobilize relief and rehabilitation for the affected people. We express our appreciation for the excellent work done by the armed and paramilitary forces, the meteorological department, the Railways, port authorities, other government departments and agencies like the Food Corporation of India, the relief teams sent by State Governments as well as non-governmental and charitable organizations. To minimize the effects of natural calamities, the Government has set up a high-powered Committee to prepare a Natural Disaster Management Plan. This will review existing arrangements for preparedness for natural disasters and their mitigation. It will recommend measures for strengthening of organizational structures and formulate a comprehensive model plan for natural disaster management at the national, State and district levels.

In the global context we shall continue to work for the establishment of a rule-based, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, which is fair and equitable to all nations. As a founder member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), India has been an active participant in all the previous international trade negotiations and in all the three WTO ministerial meetings. India has always pursued its mission for greater equity and symmetry in trade relations and for avoidance of linkage of trade with extraneous issues. Economic integration cannot advance if the interests of the poor are ignored. As a developing country, India is sensitizing other member nations to this reality. We would continue to persevere for equitable implementation of the provisions of the Uruguay Round negotiations.

In the months following the military coup in Pakistan, there has been a marked increase in Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism, targeted especially at our security forces. There has also been an increase in Pakistani firing across the border. These developments underline the need for constant vigil by our defence forces. However, the threat of terrorist attacks is one that affects all Indian citizens. We must, as a people, become more security-conscious in the face of the unremitting terror campaign against our country. For its part, the Government is fully alert to all threats to India's external and internal security. We are prepared to meet any challenge to our territorial integrity and to our open, democratic way of life.

I salute the brave *jawans* and officers of the Indian Army who are standing guard along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kargil and other sectors, far from their families and loved ones. It is a tribute to the courage, determination and dedication of our forces that they have withstood freezing temperatures of minus 40 degrees celsius and below and the hardship of patrolling snow-bound heights. It is due to the valour and skill of our soldiers that our frontiers are secure from enemy forces.

The Subrahmanyam Committee, appointed by the Government to inquire into the events and circumstances that formed the backdrop to Pakistan's armed incursion into Kargil and other parts of the LoC, has submitted its report. This will be tabled in Parliament during this Session. The Government is committed to take all necessary follow-up measures after a thorough scrutiny of the Committee's recommendations.

Backing up our soldiers are our defence scientists and defence production units. I am happy to inform the Honourable member that since I last addressed both Houses of Parliament, our defence scientists have added two major successes to their list of achievements. The

short-range, quick-reaction-time surface-to-air missile, *Trishul*, has been successfully tested. The remote-controlled *Nishant* has been successfully flight-tested. Our defence production units have proved their capability to produce sophisticated defence equipment. Production in ordnance factories in the first nine months has been higher by 33 per cent, compared to the corresponding period last year.

The overall law and order situation in the country has remained satisfactory except in certain areas affected by Pakistan-sponsored terrorist and separatist activities. Terrorist violence has been most pronounced in Jammu and Kashmir, especially after Pakistan's defeat in Kargil and the military coup in Islamabad. Governments, both at the Centre and in the State, has met the challenge posed by Pakistan-backed terrorists and foreign mercenaries with determination. We are continuing with our four-pronged strategy to counter terrorist and separatist violence in Jammu and Kashmir by deepening of the democratic process, accelerating economic development, isolating foreign mercenaries and terrorists and playing a pro-active role to neutralize them. Apart from strengthening and modernizing the Jammu and Kashmir police, Government has been reimbursing the State's security related expenditure and providing financial support over and above the normal Plan assistance. I acknowledge the invaluable contribution of our armed forces, paramilitary forces and police personnel in combating terrorism and extremism in Jammu and Kashmir and some other parts of the country.

The Government is fully committed to preserving and further strengthening the secular ethos of our country. Communal harmony in the country has improved remarkably in the past few years. The last two years have been largely free of communal violence. In 1999, this trend gathered speed with the number of communal incidents declining by 10 per cent, the number of people killed by 32 per cent and the number of injured by 11 per cent.

The Government stands by its promise to create the States of *Uttaranchal, Vananchal,* and *Chattisgarh.* Bills for this purpose are being referred to the concerned State Legislatures for their views.

The Inter-State Council has been reconstituted. Based on the experience of its working in the past, the Government will make it an effective platform for further harmonizing the relations between the Centre and the States and among the States themselves.

Our space programme continues to forge ahead in establishing systems that are crucial for telecommunications, broadcasting, meteorology, di-

saster warning and management of natural resources. India has established indigenous capability to launch Indian remote sensing satellites into the required polar sun-synchronous orbit. We are now well on our way to develop the geo-synchronous satellite launch vehicle. The India National Satellite (INSAT) System in one of the largest domestic satellite systems in the world and the next satellite in this System, INSAT-3B, is awaiting launch. It is scheduled to be commissioned in March-April 2000.

The Government continues to pursue its policy of harnessing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes for the welfare of the people. All nuclear plants have been operating smoothly and their average capacity factor has increased from 75 per cent to 78 per cent. India's eleventh Nuclear Power Reactor at Kaiga in Karnataka achieved first critically on 21 September 1999 and has been connected to the grid. The twelfth Nuclear Power Reactor at Rawatbhatta in Rajasthan achieved first criticality on 24 December 1999.

The Government is fully committed to support science and technology in the interests of national development and national security. However, a serious concern that needs addressing is that not enough young men and women are taking up careers in research and development. The Government is committed to reversing this trend by guaranteeing our highly talented young persons an attractive career profile, so that they can produce world-class scientific research and technological development while living and working in India.

The Government is committed to rapidly moving towards electronic governance, which will ensure better citizen-Government interface and greater transparency. In order to increase accessibility to, and application of, computers, the Government has intensified efforts in developing and promoting software for popular applications in Indian languages. I am happy that many State Governments have also taken major steps to complement the Centre's thrust to make India a front-runner in the IT revolution.

India's foreign policy of Non-Alignment and peaceful co-existence is relevant to the multi-polar world of today. This is based on the principle of protecting our vital interests and promoting our national ideals. The Government continues to pursue the policy of continuously expanding and deepening its friendly, close, wide-ranging, and constructive relations with our neighbouring countries—Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Maldives and Bhutan. Regular interaction with these countries has contributed to further strengthening to ties and mutual appreciation of each other's interests, sensitivities and concerns.

However, Pakistan has shown no inclination to end its policy of aiding and abetting cross-border terrorism and its hostile anti-India propaganda. Pakistan's role in acts of terror has been recently underscored by the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu. Irrefutable evidence has been provided by the Government about the Pakistani origins of the hijackers as well as the role of Pakistani officials posted in Kathmandu. We sincerely hope that Pakistan will reverse this policy of hostility towards India so that normal relations could be restored.

The return of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan is important for the stability of our region. It is also necessary for curbing narco-terrorism. Above all, it is needed for the people of Afghanistan with whom we have age-old ties. It is only through the setting up of a broad-based Government in Kabul, truly representative of all ethnic groups, and the cessation of Pakistan's interference, that peace can be restored in Afghanistan.

We shall continue to deepen and broaden our relations with our extended neighbourhood of Central Asia, West Asia, the Gulf and the Asia-Pacific Region. We value our relations with our Asian neighbour China and we will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with China. In this context, I am looking forward to my State visit to China in May this year. We hope that the Middle-East peace process would reach a satisfactory conclusion. Our relations with Israel will continue to grow. India values her close and friendly relations with the European Union, as well as with the countries of East Europe, with whom our ties of traditional friendship have seen a new dynamism in recent years. We will further strengthen our friendship with African, Latin American and Caribbean countries.

India looks forward to the consolidation of her time-tested, comprehensive relations with the Russian Federation into a strategic partnership. We await a visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation and the signing of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between our two countries.

Relations with the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and France have shown a gratifying consolidation in recent time. As a result of high-level decisions, we have launched a strategic dialogue with France that has produced encouraging results. The Indo-French Forum has also imparted a new dynamism to our engagement with France in the fields of culture, science and technology, and business. I am looking forward to my State visit to France scheduled for April this year.

The Government has continued to engage the United States in a serious dialogue on security, non-proliferation and disarmament issues

predicated on India maintaining a credible minimum nuclear deterrent. A significant outcome of this dialogue is the decision to set up a Joint Working Group to deal with cross-border terrorism, which is a menace to the whole world. We expect that President Clinton's visit to India next month will pave the way for a broad-based and multi-dimensional expansion of our bilateral relations.

India reaffirms her commitment to global nuclear disarmament in a time-bound manner on a comprehensive and non-discriminatory basis. While addressing multilateral disarmament initiatives and treaties, the Government will continue to abide by the imperative of preserving India's strategic autonomy.

The growing challenge posed by non-conventional threats, in particular by terrorism to global security, calls for urgent international co-operation and action so that these can be dealt with effectively. We call for the early adoption and implementation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. India shall participate in any global effort to battle this crime against humanity.

Our vision of achieving a higher growth rate is not aimed at benefiting only the rich or the middle class. On the contrary, the poor are at the centre of all our developmental efforts. We must recognize that we cannot improve the lot of the common man without achieving high rates of growth in the economy. Only an expanding economy can ensure growing employment and rising incomes for all. Unless India's GDP grows at a brisk rate of seven to eight per cent a year, there is no way we can banish poverty and underdevelopment. Higher growth alone will ensure that we can mobilize larger and larger resources for the social sector—for education, health, drinking water, sanitation and roads—particularly for those living in the villages and in urban slums. Towards this end, the Government stands committed to implement the social and economic agenda outlined in my last Address to both Houses of Parliament.

Honourable members, we begin the Budget Session today, after transacting record legislative business in the last Winter Session of Parliament. Apart from financial business arising out of the General and Railway Budgets, and the statutory requirement of replacing two Ordinances by Bills, we have a large agenda of legislative business relating to the all-round development of our economy and society. The Government is keen to complete this agenda in this very session.

I convey my best wishes to all of you.

Jai Hind

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

On 22 March 2000, His Excellency, Mr. William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, addressed members of both Houses of Parliament in the Central Hall of Parliament House at a function organised under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG). The Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant welcomed the visiting dignitary to the function. Subsequently, His Excellency, Mr. Clinton addressed members of Parliament. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi also addressed the distinguished gathering on the occasion.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA, SHRI KRISHAN KANT

His Excellency, President Clinton of the United States of America, Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee, Mr. Speaker, Shri Balayogi, Honourable members of Parliament and Distinguished Guests:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, Mr. President to this Central Hall of our Parliament to address the members of both Houses of our Supreme Legislature. We welcome you as an outstanding leader of your country and a world leader.

Your term in office has witnessed a deepening of relations and intensification of contacts between our peoples, between the two Governments as also the Legislative branches. We note in particular that many members of the Caucus on India—the first and the only country-specific Caucus, and Indian-Americans, have accompanied you. We wish to extend a warm welcome to them along with other members of your Delegation.

This historic Central Hall of our Parliament, fifty years ago, was the scene of an uplifting moment in the history of all democracies—the

signing and the promulgation of the Indian Constitution. In a magic moment, Indians, like the American people — over three centuries ago, had become "We, the People" — sovereign, independent, free and the ultimate source of all democratic legitimacy.

Ever since, Mr. President, we, as a nation, have been engaged in the momentous task of keeping the flame of democracy burning, alongside galvanizing one-sixth of humanity on the path of sustained economic growth and prosperity. Often, the world stood by us in our struggles, but there were times when we had to trudge a lonely path. In those moments, we derived strength from the spirit of our culture and civilization, epitomised in a famous Tagore poem in Bengali:

जदि तोर डाक सुने केउ ना आसे
तबे एकला चलो रे।

"If no one heeds your call, then walk alone".

Mr. President, we have learnt from Gandhi that it is better to be solitary in truth than be with many in untruth.

The members assembled here today represent not only one billion Indians but the many diversities of India. In our country, diversity is a reflection of a unique underlying unity. Often lost to superficial observers, this reality explains why India endures. To us, democracy is not just a form of government, but the basic condition of our very existence as a people. Eternal India will be eternally democratic.

Our Parliament has emerged as a powerful instrument of economic and social change, actively promoting a vibrant civic society. Human rights are preserved in India through the labours of a powerful Judiciary, supplemented by two-thousand years old informal institutions of our society. During your visit you will surely notice the dynamism and the energy of this new India, co-existing with, and supported by the old.

The historic legacy of the American War of Independence and the War of Unification translated into your people's support for all national struggles for freedom. Indian freedom fighters fleeing colonial tyranny found haven and support in the American society. We fondly remember your people's esteem for Mahatma Gandhi. I would like to use this opportunity, Mr. President, to thank you for signing into law of Act of Congress, authorising the Government of India to establish in Washington D.C. on federal land, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

Today, at the beginning of a new century, India and the United States are poised to embark on a new partnership. The US is already India's largest trading partner and foreign investor. Americans of Indian

origin—first generation immigrants—have contributed significantly to the advancement of the American economy, science and technology. It is our hope that this bond will be strengthened and, despite periodic ebbs and tides, will bring our two peoples closer together.

Mr. President, there is much hope and confidence that your visit to India will accelerate efforts towards a qualitatively new, forward-looking relationship, a relationship that will erase some negative memories of the past and let the collective energies of our people realise a new vision for the future.

Gandhi made a perceptive comment on the enduring ties between the United States and India in a letter he wrote to President Franklin Roosevelt on the 21 July 1942, which I quote: "I have the privilege of having numerous friends there both known and unknown ... I know that several have taken shelter there. I have profited greatly from the writings of Thoroeau and Emerson. I say this to tell you how much I am connected with your country".

It is this connection which both our countries must attempt to strengthen and enlarge.

Honourable members, it is fitting that His Excellency, President Clinton is here today to share with us his vision for a new partnership between our countries. I have the honour to invite him to address the members of the two Houses of our Parliament.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha:

I am privileged to speak to you and through you to the people of India. I am honoured to be joined today by members of my Cabinet and staff at the White House and a very large representation of members of our United States Congress from both political parties. We are all honoured to be here and we thank you for your warm welcome. I would also like to thank the people of India for their kindness to my daughter and my mother-in-law and on their previous trip to my wife and my daughter.

I have looked forward to this day with great anticipation. This whole trip has meant a great deal to me, especially to this point, the opportunity I had to visit the Gandhi Memorial, to express on behalf of all the people of the United States, our gratitude for the life, the work, the thought of Gandhi, without which the great civil rights revolution in the United States would never have succeeded on a peaceful plane.

As Prime Minister Vajpayee has said, India and America are natural allies, two nations conceived in liberty, each finding strength in its diversity, each seeing in the other a reflection of its own aspiration for a more humane and just world.

A poet once said, the world's inhabitants can be divided into:

"Those that have seen the Taj Mahal and those that have not"

Well, in a few hours, I will have a chance to cross over to the happier side of that divide. But I hope, in a larger sense, that my visit will help the American people to see the new India and to understand you better. And I hope that the visit will help India to understand America better. And that by listening to each other, we can build a true partnership of mutual respect and common endeavour.

From a distance, India often appears as a kaleidoscope of competing, perhaps superficial images. Is it atomic weapons or *ahimsa*? A land struggling against poverty and inequality, or the world's largest middle class society? Is it still simmering with communal tensions or history's most successful melting pot? Is it Bollywood or Satyajit Ray, Shweta Shetty or Alla Rakha? Is it the handloom or the hyper link?

The truth is no single image can possibly do justice to your great nation. But beyond the complexities and the apparent contradictions, I believe, India teaches us some very basic lessons. The first is about democracy. There are still those who deny that democracy is a universal aspiration, who say, it works only for people of a certain culture or a certain degree of economic development. India has been proving them wrong for 52 years now. Here is a country where more than two million people hold elected office in local government; a country that shows it in every election that those who possess the least cherish their vote the most. Far from washing away the uniqueness of your culture, your democracy has brought out the richness of its tapestry and given you a knot that holds it together.

A second lesson India teaches is about diversity. You have already heard remarks about that this morning. But around the world, there is a chorus of voices who say ethnic and religious diversity is a threat; who argue that the only way to keep different people from killing one another is to keep them as far apart as possible. But India has shown us a better way. For all the troubles you have seen, surely this subcontinent has seen more innocents hurt in the efforts to divide people by ethnicity and faith than by the efforts to bring them together in peace and harmony. Under trying circumstances, you have shown the world how to live with difference. You have shown that tolerance and mutual

respect are in many ways, the keys to our common survival. That is something the whole world needs to learn.

A third lesson India teaches is about globalisation and what may be the central debate of our times. Many people believe, the forces of globalisation are inherently divisive; that they can only widen the gap between rich and poor. That is a valid fear, but, I believe, wrong. As the distance between producers, large and small, and customers, near and far, becomes less relevant, developing countries will have opportunities not only to succeed but to lead in lifting more people out of poverty more quickly than at any time in human history. In the old economy, location was everything. In the new economy, information, education and motivation are everything, and India is proving it. You liberated your markets and now you have one of the ten fastest growing economies in the world. At the rate of growth within your grasp, India's standard of living could rise by five hundred per cent in just twenty years. You embraced information technology and now when Americans and other big software companies call for consumer and customer support, they are just as likely to find themselves talking to an expert in Bangalore as one in Seattle.

You decentralised authority giving more individuals and communities the freedom to succeed. In that way you affirmed what every successful country is finding in its own way. Globalisation does not favour nations with a *Licensing Raj,* it does favour nations with a *Panchayati Raj* and the world has been beating a path to your door.

In the new millennium, every great country must answer one overarching question. How shall we define our greatness? Every country, America included, is tempted to cling to yesterday's definition of economic and military might. But true leadership for the United States and India derives more from the power of our example and the potential of our people. I believe that the greatest of India's many gifts to the world is the example its people have set "From Midnight to Millennium". Think of it. Virtually every challenge humanity knows can be found here in India. And every solution to every challenge can be found here as well: confidence in democracy, tolerance for diversity, a willingness to embrace social change. That is why, Americans admire India, why we welcome India's leadership in the region, and the world; and why we want to take our partnership to a new level, to advance our common values and interests and to resolve the differences that still remain.

There were long periods when that would not have been possible. Though our democratic ideals gave us a starting point in common and our dreams of peace and prosperity gave us a common destination,

there was far too long, too little common ground between East and West, North and South. Now, thankfully, the old barriers between nations and people, economies and cultures are being replaced by vast networks of cooperation and commerce. With our open entrepreneurial societies, India and America are at the centre of those networks. We must expand them and defeat the forces that threaten them.

To succeed, I believe, there are four large challenges India and the United States must meet together—challenges that should define our partnership in the years ahead. The first of these challenges is to get our own economic relationship right. Americans have applauded your efforts to open your economy, your commitment to a new wave of economic reform, your determination to bring the fruits of growth to all your people. We are proud to support India's growth as your largest partner in trade and investment and we want to see more Indians and more Americans benefit from our economic ties, especially in the cutting edge fields of information technology, bio-technology and clean energy.

The private sector will drive this progress but our job, as Governments, is to create the conditions that will allow them to succeed in doing so, and to reduce the remaining impediments to trade and investment between us.

Our second challenge is to sustain global economic growth in a way that lifts the lives of rich and poor alike, both across and within national borders. Part of the world today lives at the cutting edge of change, while a big part still exists at the bare edge of survival. Part of the world lives in the information age, part of the world does not even reach the clean water age, and often the two live side by side. It is unacceptable, it is intolerable; thankfully, it is unnecessary and it is far more than a regional crisis. Whether around the corner or around the world, abject poverty in this new economy is an affront to our common humanity and a threat to our common prosperity.

The problem is truly immense, as you know far better than I. But, perhaps, for the first time in all history, a few would dispute that we know the solutions. We know, we need to invest in education and literacy so that children can have soaring dreams and the tools to realise them. We know, we need to make a special commitment in developing nations to the education of young girls as well as young boys. Everything we have learnt about development tells us that when women have access to knowledge, to health, to economic opportunity and to civil rights, children thrive, families succeed and countries pros-

per. Here again, we see how a problem and its answers can be found side by side in India. For, every economist who preaches the virtues of women's empowerment points at first to the achievements of India's State of Kerala—I knew there would be somebody here from Kerala.

To promote development, we know we must conquer the diseases that kill people and progress. Last December, India immunised 140 million children against Polio, the biggest public health effort in human history. I congratulate you on that.

I have launched an initiative in the United States to speed up the development of vaccines for Malaria, Tuberculosis, and AIDS—the biggest infectious killers of our time. This July, when our partners in the G-8 meet in Japan, I will urge them to join us. But that is not enough for, at best, effective vaccines are years away. Especially for AIDS, we need a commitment today to prevention, and that means straight talk and an end to stigmatising. As the Prime Minister, Vajpayee said, no one should ever speak of AIDS as someone else's problem.

This has a long been problem for the United States. It is now a big problem for you. I promise you America's partnership in the continued struggle.

To promote development, we know we must also stand with those struggling for human rights and freedom around the world and in the region. For, as the economist, Shri Amartya Sen has said:

> "No system of Government has done a better job in easing human want in averting human catastrophies than democracy."

I am proud America and India will stand together on the right side of history when we launch the community of democracies in Warsaw this summer.

All of these steps are essential to lifting people's lives. But there is yet another—with greater trade and the growth it brings, we can multiply the gains of education, better health and democratic empowerment. That is why, I hope, we will work together to launch a new global trade round that will promote economic development for all.

One of the benefits of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is that it has given developing countries a bigger voice in global trade policy. Developing countries have used that voice to urge richer nations to open their markets further so that all can have a chance to grow. That is something the opponents of the WTO do not fully appreciate. We need to remind them that when Indians and Brazilians and Indonesians speak up for open trade, they are not speaking for some narrow corpo-

rate interest, but for a huge part of humanity that has no interest in being saved from development. Of course, trade should not be a race to the bottom in environmental and labour standards. But neither should fear about trade keep part of our global community for ever at the bottom. Yet, we will also remember that those who are concerned about the impact of globlisation in terms of inequality in environmental degradation, do speak for a large part of humanity. Those who believe that trade should contribute not just to the wealth, but also to the fairness of societies, those who share Nehru's dream of a structure for living that fulfils our material needs and, at the same time, sustains our mind and spirit.

We can advance these values without engaging in rich-country protectionism. Indeed to sustain a consensus for open trade, we must find a way to advance these values as well. That is my motivation, and my only motivation in seeking a dialogue about the connections between the labour, the environment and trade and development. I would remind you—and I want to emphasise this—that the United States has the most open markets of any wealthy country in the world. We have the largest trade deficit. We also have had a strong economy, because we have welcomed the products and the services from the labour of people throughout the world. I am for an open global trading system. But we must do it in a way that advances the cause of social justice around the world.

The third challenge we face is to see that the prosperity and growth of the information age require us to abandon some of the outdated truths of the industrial age. As the economy grows faster today, for example, children are kept in school, not put to work. Think about the industries that are driving our growth today in India and in America. Just as oil enriched the nations who had it in the 20th Century, clearly knowledge is doing the same for the nations who have it in the 21st Century. The difference is knowledge can be tapped by all people everywhere and it will never run out.

We must also find ways to achieve robust growth while protecting the environment and reversing climate change. I am convinced we can do that as well. We will see in the next few years, for example, automobiles are three, four or perhaps five times as efficient as those being driven today. Soon scientists will make alternative sources of energy more widely available and more affordable. Just for example, before long chemists almost certainly will unlock the block that will allow us to produce 8 or 9 gallons of fuel from bio-fuel, farm fuels, using only one gallon of gasoline.

Indian scientists are at the forefront of this kind of research—pioneering the use of solar energy to power rural communities, developing electric cars for use in crowded cities; converting agricultural waste into electricity. If we can deepen our cooperation for clean energy, we will strengthen our economies, improve our people's health and fight global warming. This should be a vital element of our new partnership.

A fourth challenge we face is to protect the gains of democracy and development from the forces which threaten to undermine them. There is the danger of organised crime and drugs. There is the evil of trafficking in human beings, a modern form of slavery. And, of course, there is the threat of terrorism. Both our nations know it all too well. Americans understood the pain and agony you went through during the Indian Airlines hijacking. And I saw that pain first hand when I met the parents and the widow of the young man who was killed on that airplane.

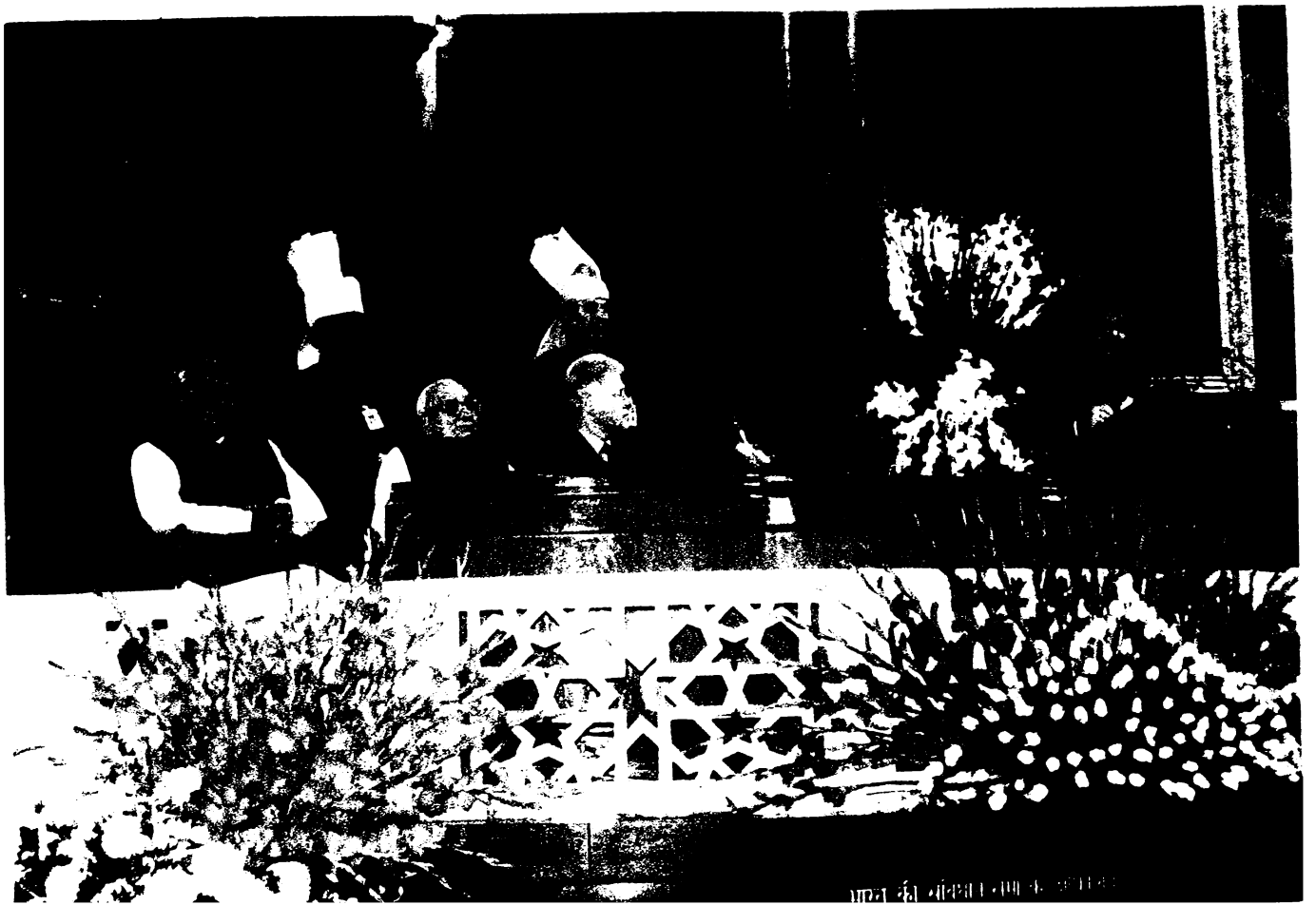
We grieve with you for the Sikhs who were killed in Kashmir and our heart goes out to their families. We will work with you to build a system of justice, to strengthen our cooperation against terror. We must never relax our vigilance or allow the perpetrators to intimidate us into retreating from our democratic ideals.

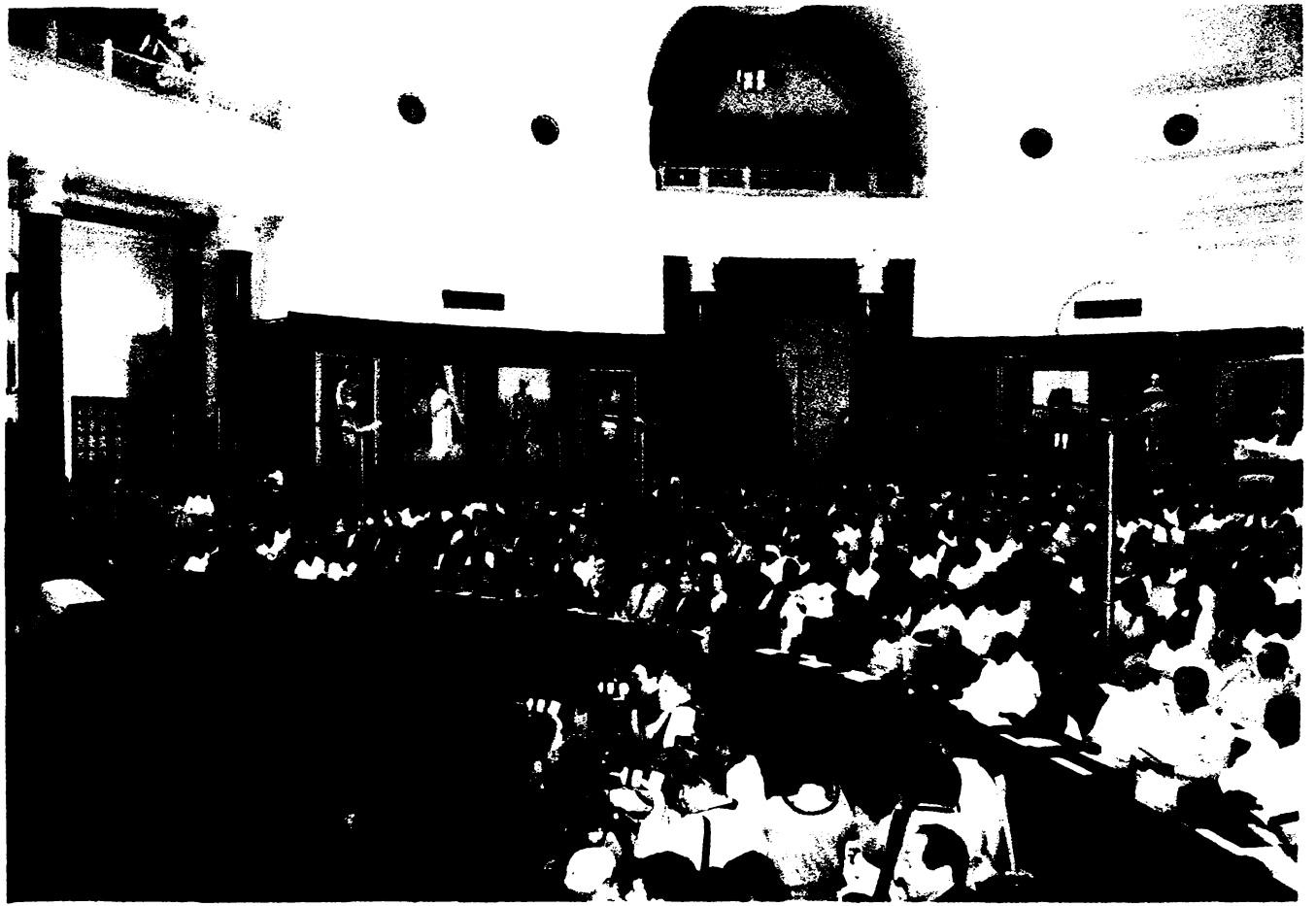
Another danger we face is the spread of weapons of mass destruction to those who might have no reservations about using them. I still believe, this is the greatest potential threat to the security we all face in the twenty-first Century. That is why, we must be vigilant in fighting the spread of chemical and biological weapons. And that is why we must both keep working closely to resolve our remaining differences on nuclear proliferation.

I am aware that I speak to you on behalf of a nation that has possessed nuclear weapons for 55 years and more. But since 1988, the United States has dismantled more than 30,000 nuclear weapons. We have helped Russia to dismantle their nuclear weapons, and to safeguard the material that remains. We have agreed to an outline of a treaty with Russia that will reduce our remaining nuclear arsenal by more than half. We are producing no more fissile material, developing no new land-based or submarine-based missiles, engaging in no nuclear testing. From South America to South Africa, nations are forswearing these weapons realising that a nuclear future is not a more secure future. Most of the world is moving towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. That goal is not advanced in any country, in any region—it moves in the other direction.

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant addressing the distinguished gathering

The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressing the gathering





Another view of the distinguished gathering at the function

I say this with great respect. Only India can determine its own interests, only India can know if it truly is safer today than before the tests. Only India can determine if it will benefit from expanding its nuclear and missile capabilities, if its neighbours respond by doing the same thing. Only India knows, if it can afford a sustained investment in both conventional and nuclear forces while meeting its goals for human development. These are questions others may ask, but only you can answer.

I can only speak to you as a friend, about America's own experience during the Cold War. We were geographically distant from the Soviet Union. We were not engaged in direct armed combat. Through years of direct dialogue with our adversary, we each had a very good idea of the other's capabilities, doctrines and intentions. We each spent billions of dollars on elaborate command and control systems, for nuclear weapons are not cheap.

And yet, in spite of all of this, and as I sometimes say jokingly, in spite of the fact that both sides had very good spies—and that was a good thing—in spite of all of this, we came far too close to nuclear war. We learnt that deterrence alone cannot be relied on to prevent accident or miscalculation. And in a nuclear stand-off, there is nothing more dangerous than believing there is no danger.

I can also repeat what I said at the outset. India is a leader, a great nation, which, by virtue of its size, its achievements, and its example, has the ability to shape the character of our time. For any of us to claim that mantle and assert that status, is to accept first and foremost that our actions have consequences for others beyond our borders. Great nations with broad horizons must consider whether actions advance or hinder what Nehru called "the larger cause of humanity".

So, India's nuclear policies inevitably have consequences beyond your borders, eroding the barriers against the spread of nuclear weapons, discouraging nations that have chosen to forswear weapons, encouraging others to keep their options open. But, if India's nuclear test shook the world, India's leadership for non-proliferation can certainly move the world.

India and the United States have reaffirmed our commitment to forego nuclear testing. And for that, I thank the Prime Minister, the Government and the people of India. But in our own self-interest—and I say this again, in our own self-interest—we can do more. I believe both nations should join the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, work to launch negotiations on a treaty to end the production of fissile

materials for nuclear weapons; strengthen export controls. And India can pursue defence policies in keeping with its commitment not to seek a nuclear or missile arms race, which the Prime Minister has forcefully reaffirmed just in these last couple of days.

Again I do not presume to speak for you or to tell you what to decide. It is not my place. You are a great nation and you must decide. But I ask you to continue our dialogue on these issues. And let us turn our dialogue into a genuine partnership against proliferation. If we make progress in narrowing our differences, we will be both more secure and our relationship can reach its full potential.

I hope, progress can also be made in overcoming the source of tension in this region, including the tensions between India and Pakistan. I share many of your Government's concerns about the course Pakistan is taking, your disappointment that the past overtures have not always met with success, your outrage over the recent violence. I know it is difficult to be a democracy bordered by nations whose Governments reject democracy.

But I also believe, India has a special opportunity, as a democracy, to show its neighbours that democracy is about dialogue. It does not have to be about friendship but it is about building working relationships among people who differ.

One of the wisest things anyone ever said to me is that you do not make peace with your friends. That is what the late Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin told me before he signed the Oslo Accords with the Palestinians, with whom he had been fighting for decades. It is well to remember—I remind myself of it all the time even when I have arguments with members of the other party in my Congress—you do not make peace with your friends. Engagement with adversaries is not the same thing as endorsement. It does not require setting aside legitimate grievances. Indeed, I strongly believe that what has happened since your Prime Minister made his courageous journey to Lahore only reinforces the need for a dialogue. I can think of no enduring solution to this problem that can be achieved in any other way. In the end, for the sake of the innocents who always suffer the most, some one must end the contest of inflicting and absorbing pain.

Let me also make clear as I have said repeatedly, I have certainly not come to South Asia to mediate the dispute over Kashmir. Only India and Pakistan can work out the problems between them. And I will say the same thing to Gen. Musharraf in Islamabad. But if outsiders cannot resolve this problem, I hope you will create the opportunity to do it

yourselves, calling on the support of others who can help where possible, as American diplomacy did in urging the Pakistanis to go back behind the Line of Control in the Kargil crisis.

In the meantime I will continue to stress that this should be a time for restraint, for respect for the Line of Control, for renewed lines of communication.

Addressing this challenge and all the others I mentioned, will require us to be closer partners and better friends and to remember that good friends, out of respect, are honest with one another. And even when they do not agree, they always try to find a common ground.

I have read that one of the unique qualities of Indian classical music is its elasticity. The composer lays down a foundation, a structure of melodic and rhythemic arrangements, but the player has to improvise within that structure to bring the *raga* to life. Our relationship is like that. The composers of our past have given us a foundation of shared democratic ideals. It is up to us to give life to those ideals in this time. The melodies do not have to be the same, to be beautiful to both of us. But if we listen to each other and we strive to realise our vision together, we will write a symphony far greater than the sum of our individual notes. The key is to genuinely and respectfully listen to each other. If we do, Americans will better understand the scope of India's achievements and dangers India still faces in this troubled part of the world. We will understand that India will not choose a particular course simply because others wish it to do so. It will choose only what it believes its interests clearly demand and what its people democratically embrace.

If we listen to each other, I also believe Indians will understand better that America very much wants you to succeed. Time and again, in my time as President, America has found that it is the weakness of great nations, not their strength, that threatens our vision for tomorrow.

So, we want India to be strong, to be secure, to be united, to be a force for a safer, more prosperous, more democratic world. Whatever we ask of you, we ask in that spirit alone. After too long a period of estrangement, India and the United States have learned that being natural allies is a wonderful thing, but it is not enough. Our task is to turn a common vision into common achievements so that partners in spirit can be partners in fact. We have already come a long way to this day of new beginnings. But we still have promises to keep, challenges to meet and hopes to redeem.

So, let us seize this moment with humility in the fragile and fleeting

nature of this life, with absolute confidence in the power of the human spirit. Let us seize it for India, for America, for all those with whom we share this small planet, and for all the children that together we can give such bright tomorrows.

Thank you very much.

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE*

Mr. President, Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Speaker, Honourable members:

Thank you, Mr. President for a thought-provoking address. Your remarks about democracy evoke many personal memories.

It was more than 45 years ago that I first entered this Parliament as a member of the Lok Sabha. I sat in the opposition benches and saw the precepts and conventions of our great democracy being established under the guidance of our founding fathers. The traditions that our founding fathers established have served us well in these 50 years. As we have matured, so has our democracy.

India is the oldest civilisation in the world, but a young nation-state. But democracy, Rule of Law, pluralism and accommodation of the other point of view have struck such firm roots as to become unshakable. As a democracy, we know that we have to evolve continuously to keep our democratic practices responsible to the changing times. In fact, this too is rooted in Indian traditions.

For centuries, our civilizations has drawn strength from a pluralism that included adaptability and receptivity to new thinking, new concepts, new influences. Certain basic tenets, however, which are the core of the Indian ethos, remained intact through this process.

Our freedom struggle was hinged on a robust national awakening and on democratic debate with the widest possible participation of our people. Our experience with colonialism rekindled even more forcefully our attachment to independence of judgement and autonomy of action, our opposition to systems and regimes that seek to perpetuate discrimination and inequality.

For half a century, India has been consistent in the pursuit of international peace and legitimate security for all through global disarmament.

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*Originally delivered in Hindi.

We still remain committed to a world free of nuclear weapons and believe that this is the way to enhance global security. We, however, find that our environment continues to witness proliferation of nuclear weapons and missiles. Such proliferation continues with impunity.

Our decision to maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent is prompted by a realistic assessment of our security compulsions even as we continue our traditional policies of acting with restraint and responsibility. Our defence posture has always been defensive in nature. We are aware of the importance that you attach, Mr. President, to the subject of non-proliferation.

We believe that as democracies, we have to take all steps on the basis of wide consultation and cooperation. India has always tried to develop its relations with its neighbours in an atmosphere of mutual trust and on the basis of mutually advantageous initiatives. Recent developments have unfortunately eroded that relationship of trust with one of them. Our approach is realistic. We believe that mature nation states must seek durable and pragmatic solutions to differences only through peaceful, bilateral dialogue. Aggressive use of force is no longer an acceptable language in international relations.

Mr. President, as our dialogue intensifies, India and the United States must move beyond a mere intersection of interests to a focusing of our vision. The Statement that we signed yesterday is the first step in this direction. There is a vivid, vibrant example of the kind of relationship that should exist between us. Hundreds of thousands of Indians are today in the United States. Your country has given them the opportunity to realise their potential. In turn, they are contributing to progress in every sphere. That partnership is not contingent upon governments. It is a day-to-day, working relationship, an inter-being. It is one that enables both sides to benefit.

It is also satisfying that our countries have started cooperation to address another vital aspect of international security. The problem of terrorism with its link to ideologies of extremism and funding through illegal trade in narcotics is one of the biggest challenges facing nation-states today. We need to consider whether we are doing enough to strike at the root of this menace, which breeds on hatred and violence and is the very anti-thesis of democracy.

Mr. President, your visit marks the beginning of a new voyage in the new century by two countries which have all the potential to become natural allies. In this context, we can do no better than to recall to ourselves the stirring words of the great American poet, Walt Whitman.

Nothing that a "Passage to India" is always "Passage to *more* than India", Whitman, in his long and admiring poem on India, called upon our two peoples to:

Sail forth—steer for the deep waters only,

Reckless O soul, exploring, I with thee, and thou with me,

For we are bound where mariner has not yet dared to go.

Mr. William Jefferson Clinton, I conclude by extending, on behalf of the people of India, my best wishes to you and to the people of your great country. I do hope your visit to India will be a memorable one.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI

Your Excellency, President of the United States of America, Respected Vice-President, Honourable Prime Minister, members of Parliament, Dignitaries and friends :

It is with immense pleasure that I rise to thank you Mr. President for your thought–provoking Address to this august House, and your ideas on the meaning and significance of democracy. I am sure your visit to India and your Address to members of Parliament would stand as significant milestones in the history of our relations and in elevating them to a higher plane of constructive cooperation.

It is in this Central Hall that your predecessors from the White House, President Eisenhower and President Jimmy Carter have addressed our members and laid the foundation for Indo-American relations. Your presence here today will further strengthen that foundation.

Excellency, there are many connections that bind us. We are brought together by history, even if geography seeks to keep us apart. Our historic non-violent freedom struggle and the leaders who led it were considerably influenced by the ideals which influenced the American Revolution. The precept and practice, the vision and wisdom of the founding fathers of your great Republic were a tremendous source of inspiration in our struggle for liberation. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, drew as much from Henry David Thoreau as did Martin Luther King from the Mahatma. The simple words of Thomas Jefferson that 'all men are created equal and independent' always create an emotive cord in us. India is equally wedded to the spirit of freedom and dignity of the individual.

We respect the great contribution made by America to the evolution of democracy and we have drawn inspiration from the American model. There is an impression among certain quarters, Mr. President, that we have implanted the Westminster system in toto in Independent India. In fact, the framers of our Constitution have drawn from the best traditions of the American, British, Canadian, Irish and other leading democracies. We have fine-tuned these precepts so as to best suit our own needs. In the process, we have evolved our own conventions which, we are proud to say, have enriched the discipline of parliamentary political science. This evolution is, however, an endless process. Our system continues to evolve to keep pace with the challenges of changing times.

Your Excellency, President Lincoln's definition of democracy comes first to mind whenever we think of democracy. Like you, we also endeavour to live up to these ideals of democracy. If Lincoln's America stands as the largest presidential system of democracy, Nehru's India stands as the largest parliamentary democracy of the world. Together, we can do a lot for strengthening thé cause of freedom and the forces of democracy the world over. We must be engaged in a constructive dialogue for cooperative partnership to build a better world.

Your Excellence, in this context, the developed world should join forces with developing economies, to usher in the new millennium, to make it, in your own words, 'not just a changing of the digits but a true changing of the times—a gateway to greater peace, prosperity and freedom'. This thought finds an echo in one of the inscriptions engraved at the entrance to this historic Central Hall which reads: 'That one is mine and the other a stranger is the concept of little minds. But to the large-hearted, the world itself is their family'.

In this context, your observation at the UN General Assembly last year assumes a great deal of significance. You have said: 'We must refuse to accept a future in which one part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy while the other lives at the knife's edge of survival'. We are also committed to your perception. That is why we should engage ourselves in a co-operative endeavour for constructive partnership to herald, in your own words: 'an era in which our desire to create overwhelms our capacity to destroy and humanity finally lives up to its name'.

This long awaited visit of your Excellency has immense significance for relations between India and the US as it gives an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to goals worthy of two great nations such as ours. Your visit to Parliament House and the Address to our members in this historic Central Hall is an important landmark in that affirmation.

I once again thank you Mr. President and convey the good wishes of the people of India through their elected representatives in Parliament to the people of America through you.

Thank you.

3

CONFERENCE ON "PARLIAMENT AND THE MEDIA: BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP"

G.C. MALHOTRA

Introduction

The role and value of the mass media to society have invariably been termed as crucial, paramount and inalienable. A free, responsible and diverse media is as vital to parliamentary government as democracy is to the maintenance of the freedom of the press. An independent media can play a crucial role in building and even moulding public opinion, which, in turn, can positively influence the decision-making process. Remarkable advancements in the field of science and technology have ushered in an information revolution, and today the emphasis is on an informed society. An informed society undoubtedly contributes substantially towards making an informed democracy. Perhaps never before has the media had such a critical role in shaping the future.

The relationship between Parliament and media has always been a subject of intense debate. As a vital link between the people and the leadership, the media helps the decision-makers to understand the pulse of the society. On the one hand, the media conveys to the people the gist of parliamentary proceedings and informs them about the policies and programmes of the government, on the other, it acts as a feedback mechanism by making the leadership aware of what society feels about specific issues, programmes and policies. This is indeed a highly beneficial exercise for both parties.

It is widely recognized that today the mass media is involved in the political life of a nation to an extent never envisaged. For most citizens, conceptualisations of political issues, events and personalities depend upon the mental images drawn by editors, publishers, reporters, commentators, columnists and professional critics.The media, by disseminating various shades of political opinion, also enables the public to make political choices at the time of elections.

It is, thus, essential that there has to be a harmonious relationship between the Parliament and the media. To advance the cause of building

an effective relationship between these two vital components of democracy and to address various aspects of their special relationship, a Conference on "Parliament and the Media: Building an Effective Relationship" was organised in New Delhi under the joint auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA); the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU); the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA); and the Commonwealth Broadcasters Association (CBA), the World Bank Institute, the United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Parliament of India. 57 Delegates from 17 countries—Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, Fiji, Gambia, India, Jamaica, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom and Zambia attended the Conference, held from 15 to 18 February 2000 in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

This Conference was earlier scheduled to be hosted by the Parliament of Pakistan in Islamabad but could not be held because of the political developments there. The CPA Secretariat accordingly asked the Indian Parliament to host the Conference.

Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the Conference were:

- To explore how the media and parliamentarians can properly advance democratic values in society and play full and appropriate role in the political process;
- To inform the media about the working of Parliament and enhance media coverage of political issues and improve quality of information provided to voters;
- To foster in politicians an appreciation of the democratic functions of the media;
- To explore effects of new technologies such as satellite/cable TV and Internet on the institution of Parliament and on political coverage; and
- To build an effective relationship between Parliament and the media

As a prelude to the Conference, the Lok Sabha, Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi addressed the Press on 14 February, 2000 and informed them of the aims and objectives of the Conference. Outlining the various arrangements being made, Shri Balayogi expressed the hope that the deliberations would go a long way in further strengthening the cordial relations between Parliament and the media which are two vital pillars of a democratic polity.

Inauguration

The Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant inaugurated the Conference on 15 February 2000 at a solemn function held in the Main Committee Room of Parliament House Annexe.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Speaker of the House of Assembly of St. Lucia, Mr. Matthew Roberts; the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley; and Mr. Rick Stapenhurst of the World Bank also addressed the Delegates at the inaugural function. The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri P.M. Sayeed earlier welcomed the Delegates to the Conference.

Inaugurating the Conference, the Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kant said that we live in an age of democracy and free flow of information. Democracy has become a universal norm today, even if not a universal practice, because the days of violent revolutions are over. There will still be revolutionary changes but only non-violent ones. These new revolutions will result not from contest of arms but from contest of ideas, knowledge, skills, initiative and innovation. Eventually, this will change the very meaning of the word "power". Power will not belong to those wielding arms but only to those wielding moral authority in society. Because we all esteem democracy so high, it is natural for us to feel pained to see democratic institutions crushed under military boots in Pakistan, Shri Krishan Kant said.

The Vice-President stressed that Parliament and the media are complementary institutions in a democracy. An aspiring and ambitious democratic polity needs them both in equal measure. And, if that is so, the relationship between them cannot be that of allies or adversaries but only complementary to each other. For their relationship to be effective, they must have knowledge, understanding and appreciation of each other's roles, duties and functions as also of their own area of work and responsibility. As such, the Parliament and media—both organised institutions of democracy—have to consciously tread the path of morality and values which would be an inspiration for the rest of the community, the Vice-President emphasised.

In his address to the Conference, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Balayogi said that a free media is at once a product as also a symbol of a democratic society. The media, while drawing its strength from the political system, also infuses strength into the system. They are meant to reinforce each other. The media is the most effective

vehicle for articulating and conveying public opinion—the most important input that goes into the functioning of Parliament.

Shri Balayogi was of the view that by its reach, impact and involvement in daily life, the media plays a crucial role in shaping the attitude of the people towards the society, and more particularly, towards politics and political institutions. As such, it is expected of the media to keep the people informed of the points of strength and weaknesses of the political and social systems, focusing more on facts rather than on opinion. Representative institutions and the media should not be working in opposite directions. It is important that each of these vital elements of democracy has a realistic perception about its respective role in a democratic order. The image that the people form about institutions of democracy is the most important imponderable that decides the course of the polity itself. In this context, self-regulation on the part of the media while reporting on Parliament gains added significance. Certain privileges are vested in Parliament by virtue of its sovereign representative nature. They are as important in the functioning of a representative institution as is the freedom of expression fundamental to the media. The media thus has the power to make and break political orders. The power of the media, if positively used could be the best instrument to sustain democratic systems. It has to be the constant endeavour of the media to help sustain peoples' faith in, and respect for, democratic institutions, Shri Balayogi added.

Addressing the gathering at the inaugural function, the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (Independent Charge), Shri Arun Jaitley stated that the Parliament and the Media are the two most vital institutions in a democracy. Both owe their origins to democratic thinking. Parliament represents the will of the people and is a repository of popular faith. The media is, in fact, the link between the Parliament and the people. There are also certain vital similarities between the two institutions. The most common feature is that both develop their own procedures and are masters of their own. It is, however, important that a balanced relationship is developed between these vital institutions through discussions and debates, Shri Jaitley added.

Mr. Rick Stapenhurst, representative of the World Bank, said that in 1997, the World Bank published its findings on the role of the State in the changing world which showed that governance does matter as a crucial factor in national development. The study showed that those countries with democratic governance, with a free press and an impartial judiciary achieve higher levels of growth and development than others. The World Bank has since then sponsored Conferences for

about 2500 parliamentarians and Workshops for 3000 journalists. The Parliamentarians' Conferences discuss issues of parliamentary relevance and economic and budget matters while the Workshops for journalists discuss issues like economic reporting, investigative journalism, etc. As such, working with key democratic institutions is very much a part of the World Bank's work, Mr. Stapenhurst observed.

Earlier, welcoming the delegates, the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed said that the Conference is conceived to bring together eminent parliamentarians and renowned media men from the Commonwealth community to devise ways and means of building an effective relationship between the Parliament and the Press which are the two vital pillars of a democratic polity. This naturally calls for enhancing effective interaction between the legislators and the media for creating an atmosphere of understanding and appreciation of the significance of their roles in the smooth functioning of the system.

In this context, Shri Sayeed said that the relations between the Parliament and the Press are rather symbiotic. Parliament often acts on what the Press writes and in turn the Press writes about how Parliament acts. One depends on the other to a large extent in carrying on their respective functions. But, it is a common human experience that in all relations of telling and being told, reporting and being reported, an element of suspicion and tension is involved. A severe conflict between the two is detrimental to the functioning of the system while a perfect harmony is dangerous to the spirit of democracy because it generates complacency and kills competence. But the relations must remain intact because the goals of both are the same, even if their methods are different. This enjoins upon both Parliament and the media to come together and interact with each other to develop a spirit of understanding and an appreciation of their mutual concerns and constraints. This helps in fostering an effective relationship which enables them to respect each other's boundary, so that neither will step over the other's domain, Shri Sayeed stressed.

Extending a Vote of Thanks on behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Mr. Matthew Roberts, Speaker of the House of Assembly of St. Lucia and a member of the Executive Council of the CPA, described the Conference as a ground-breaking event in improving the relationship between the Parliament and the media. It is the common endeavour of both to safeguard the institutions of democracy. According to him, the South Asian region has played an important role in promoting democratic institutions which is one of the basic objectives of the CPA.

First Plenary on "*Understanding Each Other: Allies or Adversaries?*"

After the inaugural function, the Conference began with the First Plenary Session on "Understanding Each Other: Allies or Adversaries?" Chairing the Plenary, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi said that a free, responsible and diverse media is as vital to parliamentary government as a democracy is to the maintenance of press freedom. A successful democracy calls for informed participation of the people in the political process. As a vital link between the people and the administration, the media helps the decision-makers to understanding the pulse of the society. Without a free and fair media, there is every possibility that the administration may become complacent, even apathetic, leading to stagnation, and the development process itself could be retarded. It is because of this that many observers have come to the view that there is a symbiotic, and not adversarial, relationship between the media and the government.

The Lok Sabha Speaker said that the daily interaction between the media and the politicians is bound to generate some friction at some point. Both the media and the political leadership should have a proper understanding of the constraints under which they operate. Both of them have a high sense of public responsibility and are answerable to the people, the society and the country. As such, a free, fair and enlightened media can supplement and complement a responsible and responsive Parliament. The success of democratic governance would be greatly facilitated if these two influential branches have a perceptive appreciation of each other's role in the national endeavour, Shri Balayogi added.

Taking part in the discussion that followed, Mr. John Harvard, MP, Chairman of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, Canada, observed that there was unlimited freedom of the press in his country. A free press, even if it is unruly, is necessary for democracy. The media should report the developments in Parliament in a true and unbiased manner and should make in-depth stories on issues relating to Parliament.

Mr. Akilisi Pohiva, MP, Tonga, described in detail as to how Parliament and media function in small states like Tonga.

Ms. Linda Christmas of the Commonwealth Press Union, U.K., said that Parliament and the media should neither be allies nor be adversaries. Their relationship should be one of understanding, mutual respect and tolerance. Emphasizing the need for a balance between Parliament

and the media, she said that new technologies have given an unprecedented chance to the people to be directly in touch with the politicians.

Mr. Mano Wikramanayake, Group Director, Maharaja Organisation, Sri Lanka, said that the government and the media have to work together in formulating any policy on media. In a democratic country, media will always try to focus on issues and scrutinise the actions of the government. As long as the media is unbiased, editorial comment should be accepted as a part of democratic functioning.

Mr. Alpheus Naruseb, MP, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia, said that the members of the Namibian Parliament depend on the media to reach out to the people as it is not possible for them to personally be in touch with each and every member of the public. Highlighting the importance of news and information, he said that the media should report objectively, and accordingly a healthy relationship between Parliament and the media is essential for the socio-economic development of a country.

Mr. Craig Reynald, Chief Executive Officer, the Caribbean Communications Network, Trinidad and Tobago said that politicians in his country tend to see the media personnel as their enemy and both are hardly at the same wave-length. In any case, coverage of Parliament by the media is essential so as to make the people aware of the functioning of representative institutions.

Second Plenary on (i) "*Should the Media be Self-Regulating?*"

In the afternoon, the Plenary Session took up the question: "Should the Media be Self-regulating?" The papers presented by Rt. Hon'ble Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission of U.K. and Professor David Flint, Chairman, Australian Broadcasting Authority, led to an interesting discussion involving various issues in the matter of the media having a self-regulatory mechanism. Lord Wakeham felt that a legal system of regulatory mechanism has massive disadvantages. Self-regulation is a desirable alternative, for that ensures restraint without curbing freedom. Professor Flint was of the view that good government cannot exist without a free press. While regulation is necessary, it should not come from the government because like many other virtues, it cannot be legislated. Shri Arun Gujarathi, Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, contended that motivation and not legislation is what can make the media responsible and responsive. There was a broad consensus across the spectrum that there should not be any externally regulated control mechanism for the media because free press is an essential ingredient of a democratic polity. The press should adopt

a voluntary code of conduct taking into consideration the native needs of specific countries.

The Session was chaired by Mr. Rex deSilva, Editor-in-Chief, *Borneo Bulletin*, Brunei.

Second Plenary on (ii) "*Cross-Border Information: The Regulatory Problems*"

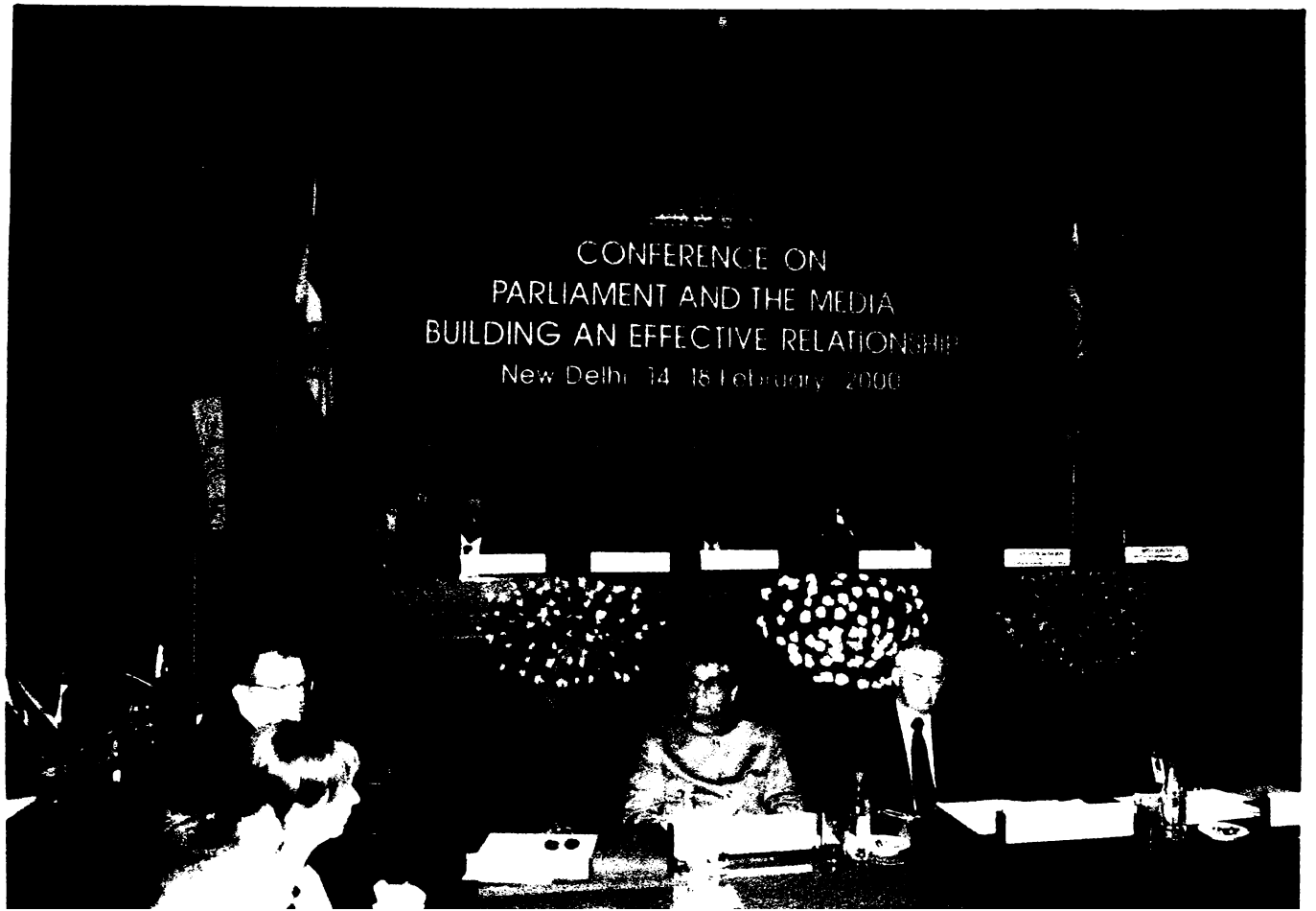
Ms. Linda Christmas of the Commonwealth Press Union presided over the Session on "Cross-Border Information: The Regulatory Problems" and spoke about the issues involved as far as regulatory mechanisms of cross-border information are concerned. Speaking at the Plenary, the former Union Minister, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, MP, said that we are inundated with the cross-border flow of information. There is a need to evolve a global culture which contains good elements of culture from every country. Mr. Gilbert Ahnee, Editor-in-Chief, *Le Mauricien*, from Mauritius said that in the current scenario of free flow of information worldwide, encouraging people to have a single identity may be like training them to be fundamentalists. No law passed by any Parliament could prevent people from getting better informed, he added.

These presentations were followed by a very interesting and informative Question-Answer session.

Third Plenary Session on *"Making Parliament Newsworthy"*

The Conference, on its second day, *i.e.*, 16 February 2000, opened with the Plenary Session on "Making Parliament Newsworthy". Presiding over the Session, the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed said that over the years, the investigative aspect of media functioning has gained a new prominence. When the media turns its search light on the administration, what it effectively does is to bring to the fore the inadequacies of the system, the problems faced by the Executive in implementing various policies approved by Parliament, the lacunae in delivery systems and the difficulties at the end level. Investigative journalism need not confine itself to looking at only the deficiencies and drawbacks of the Government policies and programmes. What is required is that the investigation should be free and fair, with a view to arriving at the truth and finding solution to a problem.

The relationship between Parliament and the media needs to be further cemented by a conscious effort on both sides so as to further consolidate the most basic postulate of parliamentary democracy—that is, ensuring Executive accountability to the Legislature, Shri Sayeed emphasized.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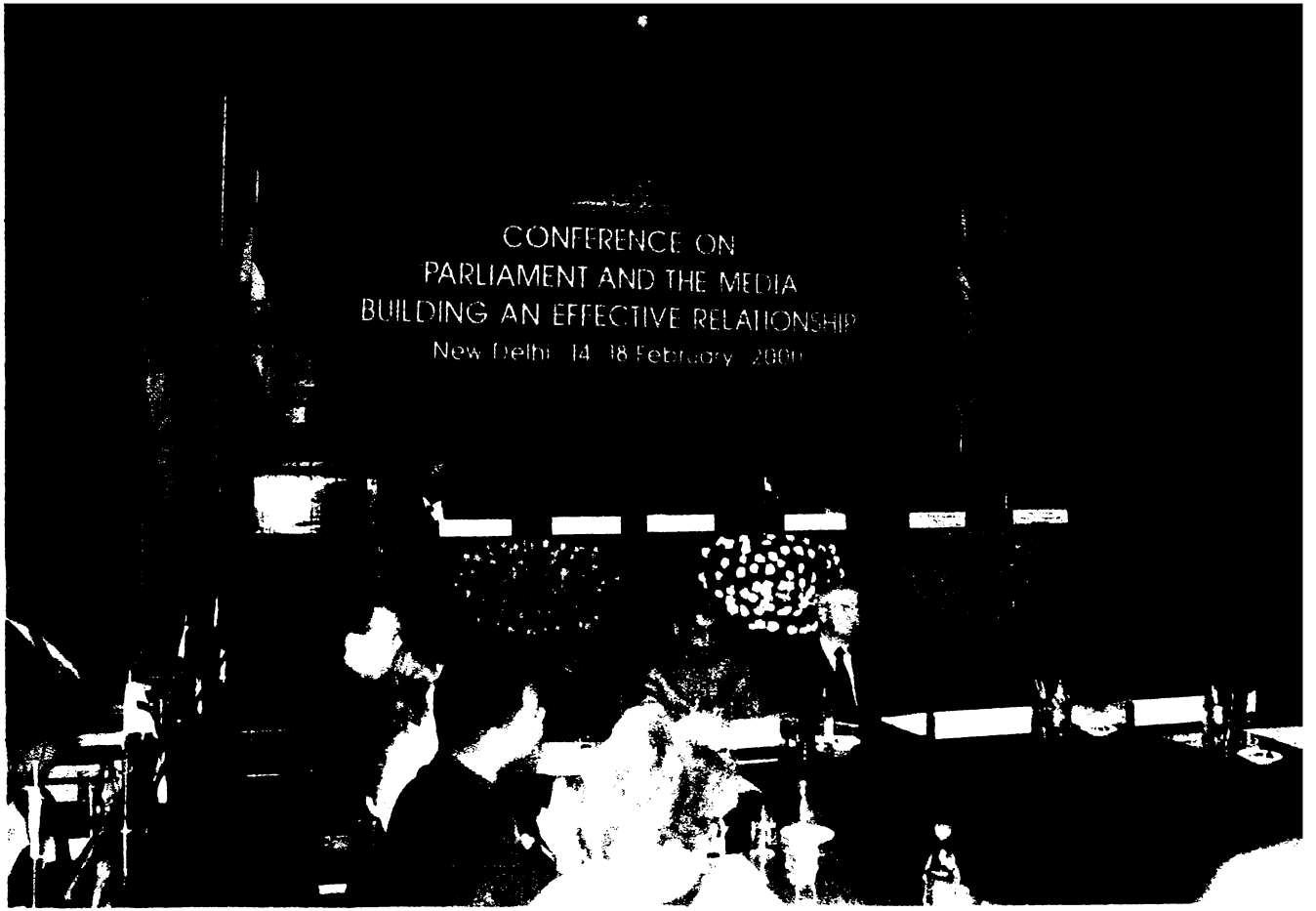
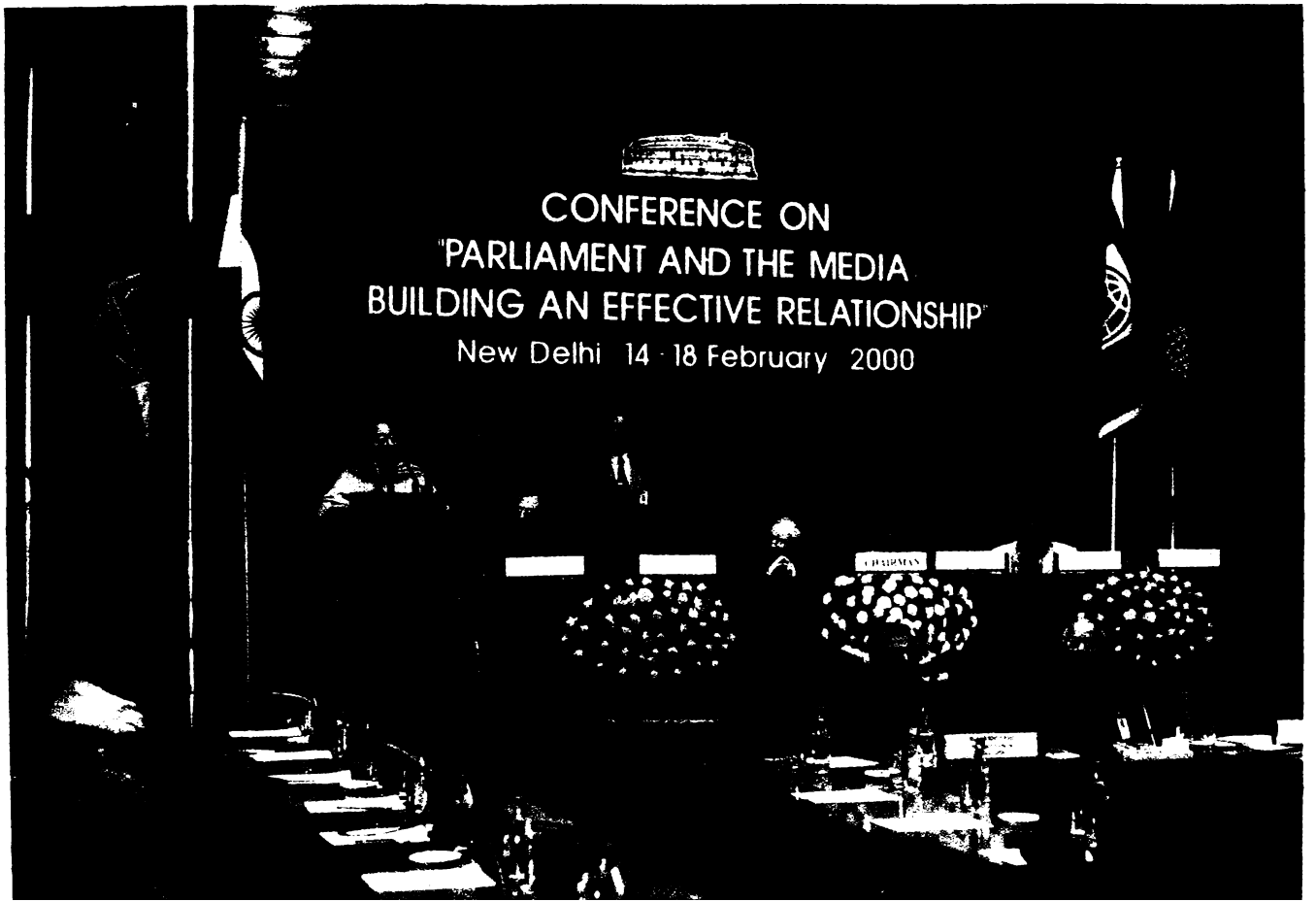
New Delhi, 14 - 18 February, 2000
CHAIRMAN



The Deputy Speaker, Lck Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed at the inaugural function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The representative of the World Bank, Mr. Rick Stapenhurst addressing the delegates at the concluding session

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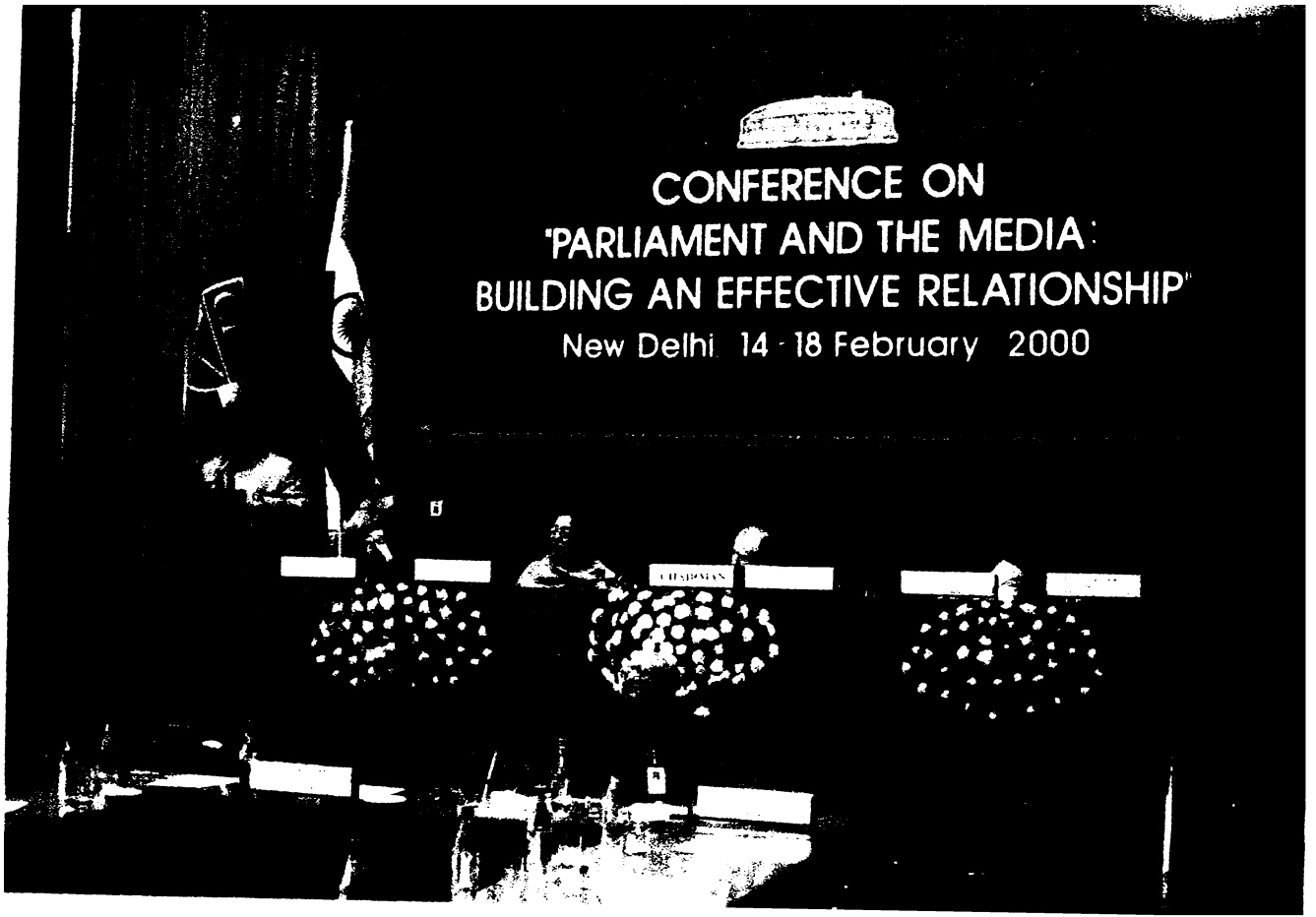
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Speaking on the sub-theme "Investigative Role of the Media", Shri Narayan Rao, General Manager of NDTV said that in a parliamentary democracy, the Government is accountable to the Legislature which, in turn, is accountable to the people. In ensuring this accountability, the media plays an important role as it is the media which has to inform the people of the deliberations in Parliament accurately. In this context, the responsibility of the electronic media is greater because the reach of the television is more than that of the newspaper. Investigative journalism, which has brought to light various scandals, should also focus on various social and community issues. Shri Rao expressed the view that to ensure more media coverage of Parliament, the issues before Parliament should be made public well in advance.

Participating in the discussions, Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, M.P., Bangladesh observed that the Parliament is the centre of all activities in all democratic countries. Apart from the formal business in the House, important parliamentary functions are also carried out by, and through the Parliamentary Committees. As such, an effective Committee System could bring about better transparency in the functioning of governments. But, in several democracies, the functioning of the Committees are not given due importance and coverage by the media. It is in the larger interest of democracy that the proceedings of the Committees are also reported upon by the media. The reporters covering the Parliament and its Committees should be specially trained for this, he added.

Rt. Hon. Sir Norman Fowler, MP, UK felt that the Opposition parties do not get adequate coverage in the media and the focus of the media is always on the Government which is helped by a battery of Press Officers. It is difficult for the Opposition to match the resources of the Government in attracting media attention. Thus, it is a challenge in a democracy for both the media and the political system to ensure that the genuine voice of the Opposition is also heard effectively across the polity. Sir Norman also felt that the media should be better balanced in reporting on 'political extremists'.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Kuldip Nayar, MP, Rajya Sabha emphasised that the level of debates in Parliament must be raised. Today, a parliamentary debate is marred by a lot of shouting, vituperation and walkouts. In India, the seriousness which marked the debates of the Constituent Assembly, and the First and the Second Lok Sabhas is missing. Shri Nayar felt that to make Parliament newsworthy, members must act and behave inside the House in a manner that will make people realize that they are really interested in the country's welfare.

Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, stated that given the nature of its powers and functions, the institution of Parliament is of everyone's concern. If Parliament is not given adequate attention by the media, it is not because Parliament has become less newsworthy, but because the media's priorities have changed over the years. It is important for the media to guard against the tendency of reducing investigative reporting to a fault-finding exercise. The focus of reporting should always be on facts, Shri Tripathi stressed.

Shri Inder Jit, himself a journalist and also a former member of the Lok Sabha, said that there are good speakers even today who are often ignored by the media. Commenting on the so-called decline of Parliament, he said that the 'Zero Hour' in the Indian Parliament was making a 'zero' of Parliament. If the public image of Parliament has declined, 50 to 70 per cent of the responsibility lies on the journalists, who report parliamentary proceedings. After the 'Zero Hour', the Press Gallery virtually becomes empty. On the positive side, however, is the fact that the discussions on Motions of Confidence and No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers often attract more viewership than a cricket match.

Intervening in the discussion, Shri Dev Kumar, Chairman, Press Advisory Committee, Lok Sabha, observed that the Opposition should not crave for as much publicity as the party in power as it is the prerogative of the Government to pronounce policies and it is expected of the media to convey them to the public.

Mr. Richard Bourne, Chair of the Trustee Committee, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, was of the view that it is not fair to say that Parliament is not getting coverage in the Press. In UK, which has a well developed Select Committee System, Committee reports are extensively covered in the Press.

Mr. Gilbert Ahnee, Editor-in-Chief, *Le Mauricien*, Mauritius, felt that the perspectives of the politicians and that of the journalist do differ. Reporting Parliament is only a part of the larger responsibility of the media in remaining ever alert about the task of defending democracy itself. It is imperative that political parties devote serious attention to the need to train members of Parliament in their parliamentary duties as also in the art of effective public speaking, Mr. Ahnee added.

Mr. Bruce Atkinson, MLC, Victoria, observed that the responsibility for the decline in reporting on Parliament rests not entirely with the media. The increasing practice of Ministers and party leaders making major policy statements outside Parliament also has contributed to the declining importance of Parliament as a source of news for the media.

Joining the discussion, Mr. Deyda Hydara, Managing Editor, *The Point*, The Gambia, observed that in developing democracies, Parliament is a very important institution.

Summing up the discussion, Hon. Matthew Roberts, MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly of St. Lucia, said in order that Parliament is given adequate coverage, the media should necessarily be provided with news. Parliamentarians have the responsibility to give the media an opportunity to project Parliament. The mass media plays a crucial role in ensuring Executive accountability to Parliament and in shouldering this responsibility, journalists have to be specially trained. Although the Opposition may be found to be a less attractive proposition as compared to the Government which has Press Officers and other resources, the Opposition being an important pillar in a democracy, its alternative approaches, etc. need to be adequately covered by the media.

Fourth Plenary Session on *"The Ethics of the Relationship"*

The Conference discussed the theme "The Ethics of the Relationship" in the Fourth Plenary Session which was presided over by Mrs. Sheron Hay-Webster, MP, Jamaica.

Ms. Cheryl Dorall, Assistant Director, Commonwealth Secretariat, stressed the need for the promotion of a democratic culture worldwide. Parliamentarians and media personnel have a crucial role in the consolidation of democracy. On a different plane, Parliament should enact legislations which safeguard the interests of the people.

Mr. John Mukela, Director, Nordic/SADC Journalism Centre, emphasized the critical role of an independent and responsible media in new democracies, since the media plays an important role in the democratic process. The problems which infringe upon the independent media in new democracies emerge from the absence of professional journalistic skills among senior journalists; repressive legislation; and limited access to printing and broadcasting services. In new democracies, the private and independent media is generally confined to urban areas. Poverty and illiteracy often act as a major hindrance in the spread and reach of the media. Inadequate media training facilities also affect the media a great deal, he added.

Mr. Clive Soley, MP, U.K., said that regulation of media is not necessarily bad for the freedom of the Press; rather, the regulation of ownership of media is more important in this context. Politicians and journalists are neither allies nor adversaries; they should respect each other and at the same time maintain a healthy distance from each other.

This was followed by a Question-Answer session.

Workshops

In the afternoon of 16 February 2000, the Conference devoted itself to four Workshops which ran simultaneously. The Workshop on "*Freedom of Information Legislation and Human Rights*" was chaired by Ms. Maja Daruwala, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. Shri Inder Jit (India), Commonwealth Journalists Association, chaired the Workshop on "*Subjectivity and Objectivity in Political Reporting*". While the Workshop on "*Press Freedom versus Invasion of Privacy*" was chaired by Mr. Murray Burt, President of the Commonwealth Journalists Association (Canada), the Workshop on "*Who Should Own the Media*?" was chaired by Mr. Craig Reynald, Chief Executive Officer, the Caribbean Communication Network.

When the Conference resumed on 18 February 2000 after a one-day break when the delegates and others visited Agra, the Rapporteurs reported back to the Conference on the deliberations held in the Workshops.

In his report on the Workshop on "*Freedom of Information Legislation and Human Rights*", Mr. Richard Bourne, Chair of the Trustee Committee (UK), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, observed that there was a general consensus among the participants that at the minimum, the Commonwealth Freedom of Information Principles, adopted by the Commonwealth Law Ministers in May 1999, may be followed. Accordingly, member countries should be encouraged to regard Freedom of Information as a legal and enforceable right; there should be a presumption in favour of disclosure and government should promote a culture of openness; the right of access to information may be subject to limited exemptions but these should be narrowly drawn; Governments should maintain and preserve records; and, in principle, decisions to refuse access to records and information should be subject to independent review.

The Rapporteur for the Workshop on "*Subjectivity and Objectivity in Political Reporting*", Mr. Clive Soley, MP, UK, reporting on the deliberations, said that the participants agreed that journalists should strive to live up to the ideals expressed in the saying that "opinion is free, but facts are sacred". As such, verification of facts is a key component. However, this does not mean that there should only be a cold, factual analysis. There has to be colour and balance to keep the reader interested. Journalists should endeavour to be objective to create a well informed democracy. Journalists often face difficulties while reporting

on contentious areas, as for example while covering a major disaster the reporter might legitimately express the emotional impact of the catastrophe on himself. State controlled papers tend to lack all credibility. Private owners also tend to intervene, sometimes in influencing the contents of a report. Transparency in ownership and interests is, therefore, an important factor for the public in determining whether the reporting is likely to be objective. This meant disclosure of interests by journalists, owners and editors.

Ms. Linda Christmas (UK) of the Commonwealth Press Union, reporting on the Workshop "*Press Freedom versus Invasion of Privacy*", said that there was a broad consensus on the postulate that freedom of the press was absolute. This must be accepted first. The question of conditionalities will follow in practice. These conditionalities have to include the cultural sensitivity of specific countries. To ensure that these conditionalities are observed, it is necessary that the press should adopt a self-regulated Code of Conduct. If the press does not recognise the need for a code of restraint, there is the danger of the State intervening to enforce regulation. To avoid that, the press must devise conventions and traditions and develop sensitivity for the cultural and human aspects, especially while reporting about minors, women, etc. Such conventions would preserve the press freedom by obviating the need for legislation to enforce a code for the media.

Reporting on the Workshop "*Who should own the Media*?", the Rapporteur, Mr. Mano Wikramanayake, Group Director, Maharaja Organisation, Sri Lanka, said that the participants generally agreed that the real question is not the issue of ownership of media operations but of control of the media in relation to editorial policy. It was suggested that in markets where the industry had been liberalised and many private players existed, viewers, listeners and readers will determine the success or otherwise of these media operations through the exercise of choice and naturally prevent owners, be they governments, private individuals or corporations, from exercising undue influence on editorial policy. There also was a degree of agreement that ownership would be an issue only if there is concentration of media ownership. It was suggested that the convergence of media through the growing use of the Internet will reduce the effects of any such control. The participants generally agreed that it is not possible to formulate an equitable policy on the control of ownership of media operations. The Workshop concluded with a question as to whether it is possible to bring broadcasters together in a self-regulatory environment to work out a code of conduct in relation to the control of editorial policy.

Recommendations of the Conference

The Conference, in the end, adopted Recommendations which can be followed by Parliaments, parliamentarians, the media and journalists for building an effective relationship between Parliament and the media. The New Delhi Conference identified for the first time ways to improve the relationship between Parliament and the media. The aim of the Conference had been to determine how their complementary roles in the democratic process can be enhanced to better inform the electorate. It was agreed that to perform their respective duties, Parliament and the media must work together, but it was accepted that a degree of mutual suspicion will always be an essential part of the relationship. Concern was expressed that in almost every Commonwealth country, the growing amount of political activity outside Parliament reflected in the media is tending to diminish the role and the importance of the business conducted in the elected Chambers. This, in turn, means that the media is informing the electorate inadequately of the work of its representatives. In the light of the discussions, the Conference suggested possible lines of action to make Parliament the *main game* in the politics of each Commonwealth country:

What Parliaments and Parliamentarians can do:

- Encourage Commonwealth governments to include freedom of expression in the revision of the Harare Declaration* envisaged as an outcome of the 2001 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.
- Encourage Commonwealth governments to support right to information laws according to the principles in 1999 recommended** by the Commonwealth Law Ministers.

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* In 1991, *the Harare Commonwealth Declaration* set the Association firmly on a new course for a new century: that of promoting democracy and good government, human rights and the rule of law, and sustainable economic and social development. As part of the *Harare* priorities, the Commonwealth provides assistance to countries in transition to democracy by helping to draft legislation, review and amend electoral procedures and otherwise create the framework for democracy to take root.

** *The Right to Information:* The Ministers received a set of draft Principles and Guidelines on the Right to Know prepared by an Expert Group in March 1999. They recalled that at their meeting in Barbados in 1980 they emphasised the importance of access by citizens to official information in the promotion of public participation in a democratic governmental process. The benefits which such access can bring include the facilitation of public participation in public affairs, enhancing the accountability of government, providing a powerful aid in the fight against corruption as well as being a key livelihood and development issue. Towards this end, these Ministers decided to adopt Commonwealth Freedom of Information Principles. The Principles are: (i) Member countries should be encouraged to regard Freedom of Information as a legal and enforceable right; (ii) There should be a presumption in favour of disclosure and governments should promote a culture of openness; (iii) The right of access to information may be subject to limited exemptions, but these should be drawn narrowly; (iv) Governments should maintain and preserve records and; (v) In Principle, decisions to refuse access to records and information should be subject to independent review.

- Recognize the value of an independent media in contributing toward the development of an informed population through its exposure to a wide range of well-articulated views.
- Appreciate that the media are also responsive to the people, serving as their watchdog in reporting the actions of Parliaments and governments.
- Develop more imaginative and attractive ways to enhance parliamentary coverage so that the people are encouraged to take greater interest in their society's principal democratic forum.
- Develop new procedures to ensure that the vital issues of the day are discussed in Parliament promptly.
- Accept that a lack of some privacy is a necessary price which public office holders must pay if a free media is to remain a bedrock of democracy.
- Explain policies fully to the news media but avoid manipulating the way the story is told.
- Urge Ministers, Shadow Ministers and Members to deliver important statements and reports in, rather than outside, Parliament.
- Facilitate more coverage of Parliament by opening the proceedings of Select and other Committees to the media.
- Take steps to raise the standard of parliamentary debate by: striving to elect high-caliber candidates, enhancing research support, encouraging a better awareness of what the media needs, and discouraging unruly behaviour, abusive language and personal attacks in the Chamber which inevitably lead to adverse media coverage.
- Respect the media as a legitimate reflection of public opinion, public concerns and social problems and reactions to policies and programmes.
- Provide more training opportunities and information for journalists on parliamentary practice and procedure.
- Be accessible and honest in all dealings with the media rather than remaining aloof and secretive or attempting to manipulate or overtly influence media coverage.
- Avoid conducting relations with the media in an adversarial manner or attempting to shield themselves, their parties or governments from media investigations in the public interest.
- Provide the media with full access to basic information and documents produced by the parliamentary process, such as access to parliamentary libraries, the provision of on-line information and the distribution of parliamentary speeches after delivery in the House.

- Take full advantage of new information technology to provide authoritative information to the media and the public.
- Preserve the independence of the journalists by encouraging newspapers to establish, support and respect a voluntary self-regulating body which is allowed to function effectively, and which suits local circumstances.
- Some technical regulation of the broadcast media may still be required due to the limitation of available space in the television and radio signal spectrum; and broadcasters should be encouraged to set and respect their own independent, self-regulating codes of professional practice.
- Public broadcasting should be allowed to be politically impartial.
- Make reports of parliamentary proceedings in other Commonwealth jurisdictions much more accessible to parliamentarians and the media, especially by use of new information technology.
- Ensure diversity within media ownership to prevent private monopoly and state control.
- Advocate measures to protect journalists and journalism during times of civil strife.

What the Media and Journalists can do:

- Gain a detailed knowledge of, and respect for, the role and position of Parliament and parliamentarians.
- Provide fair and credible coverage of Parliament as the duly elected voice of the people.
- Develop more imaginative and attractive ways to enhance parliamentary coverage so that the people are encouraged to take greater interest in their society's principal democratic forum.
- Expose the public more to the battle of ideas by providing balanced coverage of Parliament and paying attention to views expressed by Opposition and all MPs.
- Monitor more closely the activities of parliamentary committees and analyse their reports and other documents in more detail.
- Respect the right of public figures and their families to a degree of personal privacy consistent with a responsible definition of the public's need to know.
- Ensure that parliamentary and political news coverage and analysis are factual, objective and clearly differentiated from opinion.
- Put greater emphasis on inquiring more deeply and objectively into public policy issues, focusing less on trivialities and not relying solely on news releases.

- Assign to cover Parliament the most competent journalists available to ensure that the broad range of often complex issues in Parliament is adequately covered.
- Avoid conducting relations with Parliaments in an adversarial manner or in a way which unfairly denigrates Parliaments and their Members.
- Provide constructive criticism and informed and fearless coverage of political issues so that an increasingly aware electorate has the information it needs to participate in the democratic process.
- Refrain from fabricating controversies and overplaying internal differences of opinion within political parties, which may often be no more than honest disagreements over policy.
- Avoid calls for legislation or threats of legislation to control the media by maintaining high standards of coverage of Parliament, politics and society.
- In formulating standards, consider codes already in place elsewhere in the Commonwealth; but standards set for each country must reflect local circumstances.

Conference concludes

The Conference concluded on 18 February 2000 after adopting the Recommendations.

In his address at the concluding function of the Conference, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi thanked the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and other Organisations which had sponsored the Conference, the representatives of the media and all other agencies for facilitating the smooth conduct of the Conference. Shri Balayogi expressed confidence that the constructive recommendations that have emerged from the Conference will have a positive impact on the functioning of democratic institutions everywhere.

The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla stated that India is committed to upholding and strengthening democracy. The role of the media has, in fact, changed over the years from being the Fourth Estate to that of the First Estate itself. Parliament and the media should work hand in hand in a democratic set up not as separate entities but like the 'Siamese twins'.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed observed that though the participants belonged to different regions and cultures, though they may not have similar political conditions, though they may also not have similar traditions of journalism, they were one in their thinking that the relationship between Par-

liament and the media is very organic and one cannot sustain without the other.

The representative of the World Bank, Mr. Rick Stapenhurst, observed that at a time when good governance is widely recognised as necessary for sustainable development, accountability of government is very important. The media can play a significant role in this respect.

The CPA Secretary-General, Mr. Arthur Donahoe expressed his gratitude to the Indian Parliament and to all other organisations and individuals associated with the successful conduct of the Conference.

Conclusion

The Conference on "Parliament and the Media: Building an Effective Relationship" was indeed an important event in further strengthening the relationship between these two crucial components of democracy. The Conference brought together parliamentarians, media specialists and other experts from the Commonwealth community and facilitated a lively interaction among them on various aspects of their respective functioning. The recommendations outlined at the end were the outcome of the meaningful deliberations which took place in New Delhi. As the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi said in his Address at the concluding function:

> Rarely do we have opportunities for this kind of an interaction where people representing these two vital organs of democracy— the Parliament and the Media — could sit together and deliberate upon building an effective and constructive relationship in the larger interest of our polities. You all would agree that the level of deliberations here has been very high. As an endeavour in the direction of further strengthening democracy and democratic thinking, we will have every reason to be satisfied with the whole exercise.... I am sure the constructive recommendations that have emerged from this Conference will have a positive impact on the functioning of democratic institutions everywhere.

Some Special Features of the Conference

Every effort was made by the Conference Branch of the Host Secretariat to facilitate the smooth organization and conduct of the Conference. Delegates, on their arrival, were received at the Delhi Airport by Protocol/Liaison Officers. A Registration/Information Desk functioned round the clock in the Hotel Ashok where the delegates were put up. Another Information Desk operated at the Conference venue. Transportation, typing and photocopying facilities, banking facilities and medical facilities were made available to the participants. A Sales Counter functioned at the Parliament House Annexe from where delegates could purchase publications and souvenirs brought out from time to time by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Reference facilities were arranged by the Reference Wing of the Lok Sabha Secretariat outside the Main Committee Room where the Conference was held. To assist the media personnel, a Media Desk functioned adjacent to the venue. A Cyber Cafe was set up by the Computer Centre of the Lok Sabha Secretariat where delegates could browse the Internet and to receive and send e-mails. A Conference Home Page was made operational with details of the Conference and addresses of various official sites of the participating countries. Information on India's achievements in various fields was available in CDs/floppies at the Cafe. The Bulletin Desk of the Host Secretariat issued five *Daily Bulletins* covering all activities of the Conference. Press Releases on the Conference were also issued by the Bulletin Desk.

Delegates were guests of honour at banquets hosted by dignitaries. On 15 February 2000, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley hosted a Lunch. In the evening, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi hosted a Dinner which was preceded by a *Kuchippudi* recital by Vanasree and Jayaram Rao. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed hosted a Lunch for the delegates on 16 February 2000, while on 18 February 2000, the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla hosted a Lunch in their honour.

The delegates took a day off to visit Agra and its historic monuments on 17 February 2000. The Chairman, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, Shri Nitya Nand Swami and the Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi jointly hosted a Lunch in their honour in Agra. Sight-seeing in and around

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PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

15th Conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers: The 15th Conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers was held in Canberra, Australia from 5 to 10 January 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; and the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla attended the Conference. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri R.C. Tripathi also attended the Conference as Observers.

The Conference discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

(i) Party and Multi-Party Democracies: The Responsibilities of Speakers;

(ii) Ethical Standards in Public Life;

(iii) Creating and Sustaining a Parliamentary Service;

(iv) The Transformation of Parliamentary Privilege; and

(v) Discussions on the Transformation of Parliament.

3rd Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments: The 3rd Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments was held at Geneva from 31 January to 1 February 2000 to finalise preparations for the Conference of the Presiding Officers of National Parliaments to be held in connection with the Millennium Assembly at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in August-September 2000.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, accompanied by the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra attended the above Meeting. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, was one of the 15 Presiding Officers of National Parliaments who were members of the Preparatory Committee.

The Preparatory Committee mainly discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

(i) Finalisation of draft declaration for the Conference of Presiding Officers;

(ii) Modalities for the Conference of Presiding Officers; and

(iii) Follow-up and coordinating action to be taken between the 3rd Meeting of the Preparatory Committee and holding of the Conference of Presiding Officers in August 2000.

The Declaration adopted by the above Meeting will form an important input into the Millennium Summit and the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations being held after the Conference of Presiding Officers.

Conference on 'Parliament and the Media: Building an Effective Relationship':* A Conference on 'Parliament and the Media : Building an Effective Relationship' was organised under the joint auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU), the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) and the Commonwealth Broadcasters Association (CBA) in conjunction with the World Bank Institute, the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Parliament of India in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi from 14 to 18 February 2000.

49th Parliamentary Seminar: The 49th Parliamentary Seminar on 'Practice and Procedure' was organised by the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at Westminster, London, from 7 to 17 March 2000.

The following delegates from the State CPA Branches in India attended the Seminar: the Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Tamiyo Taga; the Chief Whip of the Opposition, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Abdul Mannan; and Shri P.C. Sharma, member, Madhya Pradesh legislative Assembly.

Workshop on "North-South Relations in the Era of Globalisation": A Workshop on "North-South Relations in the Era of Globalisation" was held at Havana, Cuba from 9 to 10 March 2000 at the invitation of the Head of the International Affairs Commission of the Parliament of Brazil.

The Workshop was organised as a prelude to the South Summit which was held in Havana in April 2000 under the auspices of G-77 and China. The invitees to the Workshop were those parliamentarians from Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa who had special interest in the topics. The Chairman, Public Accounts Committee,

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* For details see article "Conference on 'Parliament and the Media: Building an Effective Relationship", *ante*, pp. 267-86

Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari, MP and Dr. M. Jagannath, MP attended the Workshop from India.

The Workshop mainly discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

(i) Trade Relations and Globalisation;

(ii) South-South and North-South Co-operation; and

(iii) International Finance System and the Impact of Foreign Debt.

Asia-Pacific Women Parliamentarians Conference on "Transformative Leadership for Good Governance in the 21st Century": The Asia-Pacific Women Parliamentarians Conference on "Transformative Leadership for Good Governance in the 21st Century" was held at the United Nations Conference Centre at Bangkok from 24 to 25 March 2000 with an aim to provide an opportunity to women parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific Region to discuss how politics and leadership could be transformed towards ensuring good governance that permits equality, peace and sustainable development. The Conference focused on two critical concerns in the region, namely globalisation and conflict resolution.

The Conference was organised by the Centre for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP). The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific Region, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sponsored the event. The Indian Delegation to the Conference was led by Smt. Renuka Choudhury, MP. The other members of the Delegation were, Dr. (Smt.) C. Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Smt.) Joyasree Goswami Mahanta, Dr.(Smt.) Anita Arya; and Miss Mabel Rebello, all members of Parliament. Dr. (Smt.) Paramjeet Kaur Sandhu, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Conference mainly discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

(i) Transformative Leadership in the 21st Century;

(ii) Reframing Development Policies—Managing Globalisation; and

(iii) Reframing Development Policies—Transforming Approaches to Conflict Resolution.

Function to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of India: A function* to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of India was

* For details, see feature 'Addresses at the function to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of India', *the Journal of Parliamentary Information,* Vol. XLVI, No.1, March 2000, pp.5-15

held on 27 January 2000 in the Central Hall of Parliament House, New Delhi.

Visit of the President of the United States of America, Mr. William J. Clinton to Parliament House:* The President of the United States of America, Mr. William J. Clinton, addressed the members of both the Houses of Parliament on 22 March 2000 in the Central Hall of Parliament House under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG).

EXHIBITION

*Exhibition on 'Democratic and Parliamentary Heritage of India'**:* On 8 December 1999, a Pictorial Exhibition entitled 'Democratic and Parliamentary Heritage of India' was inaugurated by the Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of those national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the IPG to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are also brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 January to 31 March 2000.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Urban Development, Shri Jagmohan; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2000. The Deputy Speaker,

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* For details, *see* feature "Address by His Excellency, Mr. William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, to members of Parliament", *ante* pp. 250-66

** For details, *see* Short Note on 'Exhibition on Democratic and Parliamentary Heritage of India', *the Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLVI, No.1, March 2000, pp. 84-89

Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Lala Lajpat Rai.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2000. Members of Parliament and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Smt. Sarojini Naidu.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 29 February 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Shri Morarji Desai.

Dr. Rammanohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2000. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Dr. Lohia.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

Russia: On our invitation, a 10-member Parliamentary Delegation from the Russian Federation led by the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Mr. Gennady N. Seleznev visited India from 27 February to 2 March 2000. The visiting Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 29 February 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner in their honour on the same day. The Delegation called on the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh; and the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla on 1 March 2000.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Hyderabad.

Tanzania: On our invitation, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Mr. Pius Msekwa visited India from 6 to 11 March 2000. He called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 7 March

2000. He also called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh; and the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla on 8 March 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner in his honour on the same day.

Besides Delhi, Mr. Msekwa visited Hyderabad and Mumbai.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION GOING ABROAD

France: A 13-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi visited France from 26 to 30 March 2000. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri Hannan Mollah, Anant Gangaram Geete, Ram Deo Bhandary, Mohd. Azam Khan, Ganta Sreenivasa Rao, Dr. Ramesh Chand Tomar and Begum Noor Bano, all members of Parliament and Shri G.C. Malhotra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Shri Harnam Singh, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2000, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following Courses/ Programmes:

Attachment Programmes: Two Attachment Programmes for Reporters of the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat with the Reporters Branch of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were organised from 17 to 18 January 2000 and 24 to 25 January 2000.

Appreciation Courses: Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organised for the following:

(i) Probationers of Indian Audit and Accounts Service; Indian Railways Personnel Service; and Indian Ordnance Factories Service (17 to 21 January 2000);

(ii) Probationers of Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE); and Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME) (28 February to 3 March 2000);

(iii) Probationers of Indian Revenue Service and Indian Railways Stores Service (6 to 10 March 2000); and

(iv) Probationers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) (13 to 16 March 2000).

Training Course for Officials of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislature Secretariats: The Ninth Management Development Programme for

officers of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislature Secretariats was organised by the Bureau from 14 to 18 February 2000. Besides officers from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, 15 officers from seven State Legislature Secretariats, *viz.* Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Meghalaya attended the Programme.

Study Tours: A Study Tour for the Speaker, House of Representatives, Zanzibar, Mr. Pandu Ameir Kificho; Mr. Khamis Salum Ali and Mr. Juma Abdulrahman Saleh, members of the House of Representatives, Zanzibar; and the Clerk, House of Representatives, Zanzibar, Mr. Khamis J. Chande, was organised from 6 to 8 March 2000 to enable them to study the working of the Parliament of India. The Programme included meetings with the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; Honorary Advisor, BPST, Prof. Ram Kapse; and former Union Ministers Shri Madhavrao Scindia and Shri K. Natwar Singh; and the Chairman, Standing Committee on Finance, Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

A Study Tour for Mr. I. Munasinghe, Operations Manager and Mr. O.P. Dahanayake, Director, Finance of the Parliament of Sri Lanka was also organised from 29 December 1999 to 5 January 2000.

Study Visits: Thirteen study visits were organised for participants from various training and educational institutions.

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PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instance when a member was brought to Parliament House under Police escort to take oath: On 2 November 1999, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, an independent candidate, was elected to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha from Purnea parliamentary constituency in Bihar. As he was under judicial custody in connection with certain criminal cases pending against him, he could not make/subscribe oath/affirmation during the Second Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha held from 29 November 1999 to 23 December 1999. On 23 February 2000, on the opening day of the Third Session, as per order of the Supreme Court of India, Shri Rajesh Ranjan was brought to Parliament House under police escort to enable him to take oath/make affirmation. Shri Rajesh Ranjan made affirmation in Hindi, signed the roll of members, and took his seat in the House. Prior to that, he also attended the President's Address in the Central Hall of Parliament House on the same day.

Reference to a member of the Constituent Assembly and the First Lok Sabha on his birth centenary: Smt. Kusum Mehta, daughter-in-law of Shri Balwant Singh Mehta, *vide* her letter dated 11 February 2000 requested the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi to make a reference in the House regarding the birth centenary of Shri Balwant Singh Mehta, a member of the Constituent Assembly and the First Lok Sabha. The Speaker, after consulting the Leaders of Parties/Groups, made a reference in the House on the birth centenary of Shri Balwant Singh Mehta immediately after the House re-assembled at 1400 hrs. on 24 February 2000.

Instance when General Budget was presented at 2 p.m. and no other item was listed/ taken up after presentation of the General Budget and the introduction of the Finance Bill: As decided at the Speaker's meeting with the Leaders of Parties/Groups held on 23 February 2000, the General Budget for 2000-2001 was presented at 2 p.m. on 29 February 2000 which was shown in the List of Business for the day. After presentation of the Budget and the introduction of the Finance Bill, 2000, at 15.57 hrs. the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi adjourned the House for the day.

Subject matter of the Adjournment Motion should be important enough to adjourn the entire Business of the House: On 25 February 2000, after the House met, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi heard Sarvashri Madhavrao Scindia, Somnath Chatterjee, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Kumari Mayawati, Sarvashri G.M. Banatwalla, P.A. Sangma, the Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes, Shivaraj V. Patil, P.R. Dasmunsi, and the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani on the admissibility of notices for Adjournment Motion, tabled by Sarvashri Madhavrao Scindia, Basudeb Acharia and G.M. Banatwalla regarding the failure of the Union Government to get the Gujarat Government order withdrawn for lifting the ban on Government employees from joining the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS). Thereafter, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, observed:

> "Honourable members, I had received notices of adjournment motion from Sarvashri Vilas Muttemwar, Madhavrao Scindia, G.M. Banatwalla, Basudeb Acharia and P.C. Thomas regarding failure of the Government to get the Gujarat Government's order withdrawn for lifting the ban on Government employees from joining RSS. I had disallowed the notices in the House on 24 February, 2000.
>
> I have again received notices of adjournment motion today on the same subject from Sarvashri Madhavrao Scindia, Basudeb Acharia and G.M. Banatwalla.
>
> I have also now heard the members. Though the subject matter is important enough to merit discussion in the House, I do not consider it appropriate to adjourn the entire business for this purpose.
>
> We shall have a full discussion on the subject on Monday but not by way of an Adjournment Motion."

Thereupon, the Opposition members led by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Sarvashri Somnath Chatterjee and Mulayam Singh Yadav left the House. Thereafter, business listed for the day was taken up.

At about 17.59 hours on the same day, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed observed:

> "...the Honourable Speaker had observed this morning that he would allow a discussion on the issue regarding participation of Government employees in the activities of RSS. The Honourable Speaker has admitted notices on the subject under Rule 193 which would be discussed on Monday, 28 February, 2000 at 4 p.m."

Instances when members made submissions on 'International Women's Day': On 8 March 2000, at 14.01 hrs., when the House re-assembled, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed observed that on the occasion of the International Women's Day, he would allow members to make submissions on the issue. Accordingly, fourteen women members made submissions.

No useful purpose is served by discussing a matter which has become infructuous: On 10 March 2000, after papers, etc. were laid on the Table, at 14.17 hrs., rising on a point of order under Rule 184, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, member, submitted that his notice under Rule 184 regarding failure of the Government to get the Gujarat Government order withdrawn for lifting the ban on Government employees from joining the RSS should be disposed of first. He further submitted that he had also given a notice under Rule 193 regarding the activities of the Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and RSS and the functioning of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). Thereupon, the Chairman, Shri K. Yerrannaidu, observed:

> "Honourable members may recall that a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 on the issue relating to Gujarat Government's order lifting ban on its employees to join RSS was included in the List of Business on 28 February, 2000. Shri Kirit Somaiya who initiated discussion on the subject was unable to complete his speech due to disturbances which ultimately led to the adjournment of the House.
>
> The House had to be adjourned on subsequent days also due to disturbances since the Opposition parties were not prepared for a discussion under Rule 193 on the subject and were demanding a discussion on a motion under Rule 184 given notice of by Shri Madhavrao Scindia and others.
>
> On 8 March 2000, Honourable Prime Minister stated in the House that the Government was prepared for a discussion under Rule 184 on the subject.
>
> In the meantime, however, the Gujarat Government withdrew the said order.
>
> Shri P.R. Dasmunsi has now addressed a communication to Honourable Speaker for ascertaining the fate of notices given under Rule 184 on the subject and also of the part–discussed Short Duration Discussion.
>
> After the withdrawal of the order by the Gujarat Government, a discussion under Rule 184 on the notices in the form given, has become infructuous. On the same grounds, the inconclu-

sive Short Duration Discussion has also become infructuous and no useful purpose is going to be served by discussing this matter any further.

Shri Dasmunsi has now given notice on 9 March 2000 under Rule 193 on the activities of RSS, VHP and Bajrang Dal and the functioning of ICHR. Notice on the functioning of ICHR was earlier received also from Shri Ajay Chakraborty. These notices are under consideration of Honourable Speaker".

Members should give notices of Amendments after introduction of the Bill without waiting for its being listed in the List of Business for consideration and passing: On 13 March 2000, when the Statutory Resolution regarding disapproval of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 were taken up for consideration, Shri Rupchand Pal, member, rising on a point of order, submitted that he had given notices of amendments to the Bill on that day before 10 a.m. and he might be allowed to move his amendments as there had been instances of amendments being allowed in the past when Bills were taken up for consideration and at short notice and the period of notice of amendments had been waived by the Speaker. The Chairman (Smt. Margaret Alva) observed that the Speaker had already disallowed notices of amendments given by Shri Rupchand Pal. Sarvashri Somnath Chatterjee, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Mani Shankar Aiyer and S. Bangarappa also supported the contention of Shri Rupchand Pal. Thereafter, discussion on the Bill started. At about 17.31 hours, the Chairman, (Shri P.H. Pandiyan), observed:

"Honourable Members, Shri Rupchand Pal gave notice of amendments to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 today at 1000 hours.

As per provision of Rule 79, notice of amendment to a Bill has to be given one day before the day on which the Bill is to be considered by the House.

Copies of the Bill were circulated to members on 24th February 2000. The Bill was introduced in the House on 9th March 2000. Members were informed *vide* a paragraph in Bulletin Part-II dated 21st February, 2000 that members may give notices of amendments to a Bill after its introduction in the House.

As may be seen in this case, Shri Rupchand Pal had ample opportunity to study the provisions of the Bill and give notice of amendments thereto.

However, in view of the member's request to allow him to move

his amendments and the fact that, by and large, the House has no objection to allow him to move his amendments, I have decided to permit him, as a special case, to move the amendments.

This may, however, not be treated as a precedent.

I may emphasise that it is in the interest of members to give notices of amendments after introduction of the Bill without waiting for its being listed on the List of Business (for consideration and passing)."

Date and time for discussion on a notice under rule 184 is recommended by the Business Advisory Committee: On 13 March 2000, after the Question Hour, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh submitted that notices of Motion under Rule 184 given by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and others regarding violation of democratic norms by the Governor of Bihar in inviting the leader of a minority group in Bihar to form the Government should be admitted at an early date. Thereupon, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, observed:

"Honourable Members, I had received notices of Motion under Rule 184 from Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and six other members on 7 and 8 March 2000, regarding violation of democratic norms by the Governor of Bihar in inviting the leader of a minority group in Bihar to form the Government. While the notices were under my consideration, the political situation has materially changed in Bihar. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has again given a notice today under Rule 184 for disapproval of the decision of the Governor of Bihar. I have admitted the notice. A decision regarding the date on which the House may discuss the Motion will be taken in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. There will be no more submissions on it."

Instances when members were permitted to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 14 March 2000, before the general discussion on Budget (Railways) (2000- 2001) started, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi observed that as requested by some members and due to the long list of participants in the debate and paucity of time, he would allow members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 98 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House in full and 10 members laid their written speeches partially on 14-15 March 2000.

On 15 March 2000, during the general discussion on Budget (General) (2000-2001), the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, observed that as requested by some members and due to the long list of participants in

the debate and paucity of time, he would allow members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 23 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House in full and one member laid his written speech partially on 15-16 March 2000.

Instances when the House sat till the next day: On 14 March 2000, the House sat from 11.00 hrs. to 2.04 hrs. on 15 March 2000 in connection with the general discussion on Budget (Railways), 2000-2001.

On 15 March 2000, the House sat from 11.00 hrs. to 2.15 hrs., on 16 March 2000 in connection with the general discussion on the Budget (General), 2000-2001.

Instance when a Policy was announced in the House before being laid on the Table of the House: On 23 March 2000, the Minister of Commerce and Industry sought the permission of the Speaker to announce the Exim Policy (1997-2000, incorporating amendments made upto 31 March 2000) on 31 March 2000. The Minister further stated that the Exim Policy along with the Handbook of Procedures would be laid when the House would meet after the recess on 17 April 2000. The request of the Minister was acceded to.

Accordingly, the Exim Policy was announced by the Minister on 31 March 2000 and copies of the Exim Policy, along with the Handbook of Procedures, were kept in the Parliament Library for reference by members. Copies of the Policy were also circulated to members through the Publications Counter the same day. Members were also informed through a para in Bulletin Part-II.

Subsequently, on 18 April 2000, the Exim Policy ad the Handbook of Procedures were laid on the Table.

Instance when texts of oath/affirmation cards were revised in accordance with the texts provided in the Third Schedule to the Constitution: On 23 March 1998, Sarvashri C.K. Jaffer Sharief and S. Mallikarjunaiah, members, of the Twelfth Lok Sabha pointed out some inaccuracy in the Kannada version of oath/affirmation being used by members in the Lok Sabha. The Interpreters Branch who were requested to examine the same suggested some amendments. The opinion of the Official Language Wing of the Ministry of Law was obtained in regard to the correct version of the Kannada oath/affirmation forms. They advised that the form of oath/affirmation contained in the Kannada version of the Constitution published in 1985 might be followed. Accordingly, the revised text of language of Kannada oath/affirmation forms as suggested by the Ministry of Law and vetted by the members were adopted after the approval of the Speaker.

On 26 March 1998, Shri B.K. Sharma, Advocate, Supreme Court, *vide* his letter addressed to the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha pointed out that the language of oath in Hindi administered to the members of the Lok Sabha was different from the text provided in the Constitution.

On examination of oath/affirmation forms in Hindi and Urdu, it was found that the text of oath/affirmation forms in Hindi and Urdu versions were not on the basis of the text provided in the Constitution, but, were in accordance with changes made therein in 1952 by the then Speaker, late Shri Mavalankar and in Urdu by late Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. On being consulted, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat informed that they are following the texts as provided in the Constitution.

The opinion of the Official Language Wing of the Ministry of Law was obtained. They advised that the text as given in the Third Schedule of the Constitution may be followed. Accordingly, the Hindi and Urdu versions of the forms as provided in the Constitution were adopted with the concurrence of the Speaker.

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PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2000)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and as such the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Elections to the Rajya Sabha: On 13 January 2000, the following were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha from Delhi: Shri Karan Singh, Shri A.R. Kidwai and Smt. Ambika Soni (all Congress (I)).

On 18 March 2000, the following were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha:

Andhra Pradesh: Shri Alladi Rajkumar, Shri Ram Mohan Rao, Shri R. Reddy and Smt. V. Geetha (all TDP); and Shri K. M. Khan (Congress(I)).

Gujarat: Shri Arun Jaitley, Shri A.K. Patil, Shri Lekhraj Bachani (BJP); Shri Rajiv Parmar (Congress(I)).

Haryana: Shri Faqir Chand (INLD).

Madhya Pradesh: Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj, Shri Prafulla Maheshwari, Shri Bhagatram Manhar and Shri Arjun Singh (all Congress (I)); and Shri Vikram Verma and Shri Kailash Joshi (both BJP).

Maharashtra: Shri Dilip Kumar (Congress(I)); Shri R.P. Gavai (RPI); Shri Sanjay Nirupam (Shiv Sena); Shri Praful Patel (NCP); Shri B. Apte (BJP); and Shri Ram Jethmalani (Independent).

On 29 March 2000, the following were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha:

Bihar: Shri Vendhamma Viriyo (RJD).

Himachal Pradesh: Shri Kripal Parmar (BJP).

Jammu and Kashmir: Shri Mirza Abdul Rashid (NC).

Karnataka: Shri K. Rehman Khan, Shri Bimba Raikar and Shri K.B. Krishnamurthy (all Congress (I)); and Shri Rajeshekharamurthy (BJP).

Orissa: Shri Baijayanta Panda and Shri Birbhadra Singh (both BJD); and Shri Manmohan Samal (BJP).

Rajasthan: Shri R.P. Goenka, Shri Jamuna Barupal and Shri Mool Chand Meena (all Congress(I)).

Uttar Pradesh: Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Balbir Singh Punj, Shri Ramnath Govind, and Shri Ram Baksh Verma (all BJP); Shri Rajiv Shukla (Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress Party); Shri Janeshwar Misra, Shri Sakshi Maharaj and Shri Dara Singh Chauhan (all SP); Shri Ghanshyam Kharwaha (BSP); and Shri M.M. Aggarwal (Independent).

West Bengal: Shri Nilotpal Basu, Shri Dipankar Mukherjee and Shri Biplab Dasgupta (all CPM); Shri Manoj Bhattacharya (RSP); and Shri Jayanta Bhattacharya (Independent).

Resignation of Ministers: On 1 February 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee accepted the resignation of the Minister of State for Tourism, Kumari Uma Bharati.

On 3 March 2000, the Union Agriculture Minister Shri Nitish Kumar resigned from Office.

On 4 March 2000, the Union Minister for Mines and Minerals, Shri Naveen Patnaik resigned from Office.

Reallocation of Portfolios: On 2 February 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee reallocated some of the portfolios by way of additional charge. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri Ananth Kumar: *Cabinet Minister of Culture to hold additional charge of Tourism;* Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa: *Cabinet Minister of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation to hold additional charge of Youth Affairs and Sports;* and Shri Chaoba Singh: *Minister of State of Culture to hold additional charge of Youth Affairs and Sports.*

On 6 March 2000, Shri Sunder Lal Patwa: *Cabinet Minister of Rural Development was given additional charge of Agriculture* and Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam: *Cabinet Minister of Power was given additional charge of Mines and Minerals.*

Resignation of Member: On 25 March 2000, Shri Barjinder Singh resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

Budget Session of Parliament: The Budget Session of Parliament commenced on 23 February 2000 with the Address by the President to members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned on 16 March 2000 to facilitate the Departmentally related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Union Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House. Both the Houses reassembled on 17 April 2000 and were adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2000. The two Houses were prorogued by the President on 23 May 2000.

By-election results: The following is the result of the Lok Sabha by-election held on 17 February 2000: *Bellary (Karnataka)*: Shri Basavanna Gowda (Congress(I)); and *Kannauj (UP)*: Shri Akhilesh Singh (Samajwadi Party).

Death of Member: Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, member of the Lok Sabha representing the Panskura constituency in West Bengal, passed away on 4 March 2000.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Death of Minister: On 7 March 2000, the Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister, Shri A. Madhava Reddy was killed in a landmine blast.

BIHAR

Resignation of Ministers: On 21 January 2000, the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Shri Awadhesh Kumar Singh resigned from the Party and the State Cabinet.

On 22 January 2000, the Minister of State for Higher Education, Shri K.B. Prasad Yadav resigned from the State Cabinet.

On 25 January 2000, the Minister for Registration, Shri Ram Naresh Prasad resigned from the State Cabinet.

On 29 January 2000, the Minister of State for Building Construction, Shri Basant Singh resigned from the State Cabinet.

On 31 January 2000, the Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Shri Javed Iqbal Ansari resigned from the State Cabinet.

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Bihar Legislative Assembly were held on 12, 17 and 22 February 2000. The

party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 324; RJD-123; BJP-67; Congress-23; CPI-6; Samata Party-34; JD (U)-21; CPI (M)-2; JMM-12; CPI (ML)-6; BSP-5; and Independents and others-25.

Political developments: On 27 February 2000, Shri Nitish Kumar was elected the leader of the National Democratic Alliance. The Rashtriya Janata Dal Legislature Party re-elected Smt. Rabri Devi as its leader.

On 3 March 2000, Shri Nitish Kumar of the National Democratic Alliance was sworn in as the new Chief Minister and was asked to prove his majority on the floor of the House within ten days.

On 5 March 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar inducted three Ministers in the State Cabinet. They are: Shri Sushil Kumar Modi (BJP); Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras (JD-U); and Prof. Stephen Marandi (JMM-S).

On 9 March 2000, Shri Sadanand Singh of the Congress(I), supported by the RJD, was unanimously elected the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

On 10 March 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar resigned from Office without seeking a Vote of Confidence. Later, the Governor invited the Rashtriya Janata Dal leader, Smt. Rabri Devi to form the Government.

On 11 March 2000, Smt. Rabri Devi was sworn in as the Chief Minister and was asked to prove the majority on the floor of the House within ten days.

On 16 March 2000, the Chief Minister won a Vote of Confidence in the State Legislative Assembly.

On 25 March 2000, the Chief Minister expanded the State Cabinet. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Smt. Rabri Devi (*Chief Minister*): *Cabinet Secretariat and Coordination, Home (Excluding Prisons); Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Civil Aviation, Planning and Development, Agriculture, Weights and Measures and Horticulture and other Departments which are not allocated to any other Ministers.*

Cabinet Ministers: Shri Ramai Ram: *Revenue and Land Development;* Shri Jagdanand Singh: *Water Resources (Excluding Minor Irrigation);* Shri Ghulam Sarwar: *Agriculture;* Shri Shankar Prasad Tekriwal: *Transport:* Shri Upendra Prasad Verma: *Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Kosi Project;* Shri Awadh Bihari Choudhury: *Rural Development and Panchayati Raj;* Shri Jaiprakash Narayan Yadav: *Water Resources*

(Minor Irrigation); Shri Abdul Bari Siddiqui: *Finance (Commercial Taxes and National Savings);* Shri Narayan Yadav: *Urban Development:* Shri Ravindra Charan Yadav: *Industry;* Shri Ramvichar Rai: *Relief and Rehabilitation;* Shri Sitaram Singh: *Mines and Minerals;* Shri Raghvendra Pratap Singh: *Sugarcane Development;* Shri Saba Ahmad: *Higher Education;* Shri Sitaram Yadav: *Information and Public Relations;* Shri Purnamasi Ram: *Food Supply and Commerce;* Shri Ashok Kumar Singh: *Art, Culture and Youth;* Shri Chandrika Rai: *Science and Technology;* Shri Furqan Anasari: *Road Construction;* Shri Bagun Sumbrui: *Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Welfare;* Shri Vijay Shankar Dubey: *Adult Education;* Shri Rajendra Pratap Singh; *Energy;* Shri Manoj Kumar Yadav: *Forest and Environment;* Shri Shakuni Choudhury: *Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education and Indigenous Medicines (Ayurved);* Shri Shivanand Tiwari: *Production and Prohibition;* Shri Taslimuddin: *Building Construction;* Shri Chandrashekhar Dubey: *Labour and Planning;* Shri Ram Ashrey Sahni: *Animal Husbandry and Fisheries;* Shri Rampadarath Mahto: *Rajbhasha;* Shri Shakeel Ahmad Khan: *Law;* Shri Basawan Prasad Bhagat: *Home (Prisons);* Shri Pitambar Paswan: *Welfare;* Shri Ram Raman: *Secondary, Primary and Adult Education;* Dr. Ashok Kumar: *Finance and Programme Implementation;* Dr. Shakeel Ahmad: *Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare;* Smt. Veena Shahi: *Cooperatives;* and Smt. Rama Devi: *Public Health Department.*

Ministers of State: Shri Ramdas Rai: *Higher Education;* Shri Shiv Shankar Yadav: *Agriculture (excluding Weights and Measures and Horticulture);* Shri Udit Rai: *Urban Development;* Shri Girinath Singh; *Public Health Department;* Shri Indradev Prasad: *Water Resources (Excluding Minor Irrigation);* Shri Shyam Rajak: *Energy;* Shri Suresh Paswan: *Tourism;* Shri Mansoor Alam: *Minorities Welfare;* Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav: *Production;* Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh: *Rural Development and Panchayati Raj;* Shri Mohammad Zahidur Rahman: *Relief and Rehabilitation;* Shri Alamgir Alam: *Industry;* Shri Theodar Kiri: *Forest and Environment;* Shri Nithel Tirkey: *Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Welfare;* Shri Choudhury Mehboob Ali: *Science and Technology;* Shri Dev Kumar: *Law;* Shri Prayag Choudhury: *Revenue and Land Reforms;* Shri Vijay Prasad Gupta: *Water Resources (Minor Irrigation);* Shri Ravindranath Mishra: *Rural Development;* Shri Dadan Singh: *Finance, Commerce and National Savings;* Shri Vijay Kumar *Mandal: Information and Public Relations;* Shri Virendra Prasad: *Secondary, Primary and Adult Education;* Shri Himraj Singh: *Road Construction;* Shri Aditya Singh: *Animal Husbandry and Fisheries;* Shri Lalit Kumar Yadav: *Cooperatives;* Shri Rajendra Prasad Yadav: *Industry;* Shri Ram Prakash Mahto: *Secondary, Primary and Adult Education;* Shri Seetalram: *Health, Family Welfare*

and Medical Education; Shri Rajballabh Prasad: *Labour and Planning;* Shri Vagikumar Verma: *Food Supply and Commerce;* Shri Cheddi Paswan: *Agriculture;* Shri Yamuna Prasad Ram: *Transport;* Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh: *Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education;* Shri Ashok Kumar: *Sugarcane Development;* Shri Monazir Hasan: *Art, Culture and Youth Affairs;* Shri M. Ejazul Haq: *Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Welfare;* Shri Sawan Lakra: *Building Construction and Housing;* Dr. Mohammad Jawaid: *Labour and Programme Implementation;* and Smt. Annapurna Devi: *Mines and Minerals.*

HARYANA

Resignation of Ministers: On 22 January 2000, the Minister of State for Public Health, Shri Jaswant Singh Bawal and the Minister of State for Medical Education, Shri Vinod Kumar Arya resigned from the State Cabinet.

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Haryana Legislative Assembly were held on 17 and 22 February 2000. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 90; INLD-47; BJP-6; Congress-21; HVP-2; BSP-1; RPI-1; NCP-1; and Independents-11.

On 27 February 2000, the Governor, Shri Mahabir Prasad invited the Indian National Lok Dal leader, Shri Om Prakash Chautala to form the Government.

On 2 March 2000, Shri Om Prakash Chautala was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The new Ministers are:

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri Sampat Singh, Dhirpal Singh, Ashok Kumar, Kartar Singh Bhadana and Jaswinder Singh Sandhu.

Ministers of State: Sarvashri M.L. Ranga, Mohammad Iliyas, Subhash Chander Goyal, Bahadur Singh and Vishal Singh.

Election of Speaker: On 9 March 2000, Shri Satbir Singh Kadian of the Indian National Lok Dal was unanimously elected the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

By-election result: The BJP won the lone seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-election was held on 17 February 2000.

KARNATAKA

Death of MLA: Congress(I) MLA Shri Vasanth Asnotikar was shot dead on 20 February 2000.

KERALA

Resignation of Ministers: On 17 January 2000, the Health Minister, Shri A.C. Shanamughadas resigned from the State Cabinet.

On 19 January 2000, Shri V.C. Kabeer of the Nationalist Congress Party was sworn in as the new Health and Sports Minister.

On 12 February 2000, the Forest and Transport Minister, Shri A. Neelalohithadasan Nadar resigned from the State Cabinet. Shri C.K. Nanu was sworn in as the new Minister in his place on 17 February 2000.

MADHYA PRADESH

By-election results: In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 17 February 2000, the Congress and the BJP won two seats each.

MAHARASHTRA

By-election result: The Shiv Sena won the lone seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which the by-election was held on 17 February 2000.

MANIPUR

Resignation of Minister: On 22 January 2000, the Minister of State for Power, Shri Thangminlien resigned from the State Cabinet and from the membership of the State Assembly.

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 12 and 22 February 2000. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 60; MSCP-23; INC-11; BJP-6; Federal Party of Manipur-6; Manipur People's Party-1; NCP-1; JD(S)-1; Samata Party-1; MPP(K)-3; NCP(O)-3; NCP(D)-1; RJD(H)-1; JD(Z)-1; and Independent-1.

On 2 March 2000, Shri W. Nipamacha Singh of the United Front was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The Ministers are:

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri L. Chandramani Singh *(Deputy Chief Minister);* H. Lokhon Singh, Gangmumei Kamey, H. Bidur, M. Kunjo Singh, V. Hangkhalian, L. Tomba Singh, Y. Jiten Singh, W. Thoiba Singh, N. Bihari Singh, Songchingkhup, Samuel Jendai, M. Hemanta Singh, Gobindas Konthonjam, P. Achou Singh, Biren Singh, S. Rajen Singh, Bira, Haokholet Kigpen, Hanghkhanpao, Thangminlien Kipgen and H. Sanayaima Singh.

Ministers of State (Independent Charge): Sarvashri S. Bira Singh, L. Bhagyachandra Singh, S. Chandra, Allauddin and Khasim.

Ministers of State: Sarvashri A. Biren Singh, Z. Magaibon, M. Chunskhosei, K. Tomba Singh, Onjamang Haokip and Smt. W. Leima Devi.

Election of Speaker: On 11 March, 2000, Dr. Sapam Dhananjoy of the MSCP was elected Speaker of the Assembly.

MEGHALAYA

Political developments: On 6 March 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri B.B. Lyngdoh resigned from Office.

On 8 March 2000, Shri F.K. Mawlong of the UDP was sworn in as the new Chief Minister.

On 9 March 2000, the Chief Minister inducted 28 Ministers in the State Cabinet.

NAGALAND

Death of Minister: The Minister of Tourism and Border Affairs, Shri T.C.K. Lotha passed away on 4 February 2000.

ORISSA

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 17 and 22 February 2000. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats: 147; Biju Janata Dal: 68; BJP-38; Congress-26; JMM-3; CPI-1; CPI(M)-1; JD (S)-1; AITC-1; and Independents-8.

On 27 February 2000, Shri Naveen Patnaik was unanimously elected leader of the Biju Janata Dal.

On 5 March 2000, Shri Naveen Patnaik was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The new Ministers are:

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri Nalinikant Mohanty, Ram Krishna Patnaik, A.U. Singhdeo, Surendra Nath Nayak, Mangala Kisan, Bhagat Behera, A.P. Singh, Anand Acharya, Biswabhusan Harichandan, Bed Prakash Agarwal, Samir Dey, Arabinda Dhal, K.V. Singhdeo and Smt. Kamala Das.

Ministers of State (Independent Charge): Sarvashri Bimbadhar Kuanr, Duryodhan Majhi, Bijoyshree Routray, Prasant Nanda, Ramendra Pratap Swain and Smt. Draupadi Murmu.

Ministers of State: Sarvashri Debi Misra, Amar Prasad Satpathy, Rabi Narayan Nanda and Golak Naik.

PONDICHERRY

Political developments: On 16 March 2000, the Tamil Manila Congress withdrew support to the DMK-led Janakiraman Ministry leading to a minority status in the 33-member Assembly.

On 18 March 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri R.V. Janakiraman submitted his resignation to the Lt. Governor.

On 19 March 2000, Shri P. Shanmugham of the Congress (I) was elected leader of the Legislature Party who staked claim to form the Government.

On 22 March 2000, Shri P. Shanamugham was sworn in as the Chief Minister.

On 27 March 2000, the Chief Minister won a Vote of Confidence in the Assembly.

PUNJAB

By-election result: Shri Jatinder Singh Kariha of the SAD-BJP combine won the lone seat in the State Legislative Assembly for which by-election was held on 17 February 2000.

RAJASTHAN

Resignation of Minister: On 18 February 2000, the Finance Minister, Shri C.N. Baid resigned from Office.

TAMIL NADU

By-election results: In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 17 February 2000, the DMK and the MGRADMK won one seat each.

TRIPURA

Minister dropped: On 2 February 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Manik Sarkar dropped the Minister of Rural Development, Shri Ananta Paul from the State Cabinet.

UTTAR PRADESH

Resignation of Minister: On 9 February 2000, the Minister of State

for Higher Education, Shri Rakesh Dhar Tripathi resigned from the State Cabinet.

WEST BENGAL

By-election results: In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 17 February 2000, the CPI (M) won two seats and the Jharkhand Party won one seat.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

AUSTRIA

New Chancellor: On 4 February 2000, Mr. Wolfgang Schuessel was sworn in as the new Chancellor of Austria.

BELARUS

New Acting Prime Minister: On 19 February 2000, the President, Mr. Alexander Lukashenko appointed Mr. Minssa Vladimir Yermastin as the acting Prime Minister.

CHILE

New President: On 29 January 2000, Mr. Ricardo Lagos was declared elected as the new President.

COLOMBIA

Resignation of Speaker: On 26 March 2000, the Speaker of the Lower Chamber of the Congress, Mr. Armanda Pomarico resigned from Office.

CROATIA

New Prime Minister: On 28 January 2000, Mr. Ivan Racan was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

New President: On 8 February 2000, Mr. Stipe Mesic was voted as the new President.

GUATEMALA

New President: On 15 January 2000, Mr. Alfonso Portillo was sworn in as the new President.

JORDAN

Resignation of Deputy Prime Minister: On 24 February 2000, the

Prime Minister, Mr. Abdel Rauf Rawabdeh accepted the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Rinee Khalaf.

MALI

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 15 February 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita resigned from Office.

NEPAL

Political developments: On 29 January 2000, the Finance Minister, Mr. Mahesh Acharya resigned from Office.

On 1 February 2000, Mr. Ram Chandra Poudyal was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister.

On 4 February 2000, the Education Minister, Mr. Yog Prasad Upadhyaya resigned from the Cabinet in protest against the appointment of Mr. Ram Chandra Pondyal as the Deputy Prime Minister.

On 16 March 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai resigned from Office.

On 22 March, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

RUSSIA

New President: On 27 March 2000, Mr. V. Putin was elected as the new President of Russia.

SOUTH AFRICA

Death of Foreign Minister: The Foreign Minister, Mr. Alfred Nzo passed away on 14 January 2000.

SUDAN

Resignation of Cabinet: On 1 January 2000, the President, Mr. Omar Hussain Al-Bashier's Cabinet resigned.

U.K.

Death of MP: The Conservative Party MP, Mr. Michael Colvin was burnt to death on 24 February 2000.

UZBEKISTAN

President re-elected: On 10 January 2000, Mr. Islam Karimov was

re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan. He was sworn in as the President on 22 January 2000.

YUGOSLAVIA

Minister assassinated: On 8 February 2000, the Defence Minister, Mr. Pavic Bulatovic was assassinated.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

Article 334 of the Constitution laid down that the provisions relating to the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the representation of the Anglo-Indian community by nomination in the Lok Sabha and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States should cease to be effective on the expiration of a period of fifty years from the commencement of the Constitution. Although the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes had made considerable progress in the last fifty years, the reasons which weighed with the Constituent Assembly in making provisions with regard to the aforesaid reservation of seats and nomination of members, had not ceased to exist. Therefore, the Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Bill, 1999 proposed to continue the reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the representation of the Anglo-Indian Community by nomination for a further period of ten years. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 27 October and 28 October, 1999, respectively. It received the President's assent on 21 January, 2000.

We reproduce here the text of the above Act.

—Editor

THE CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY-NINTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1999

An Act further to amend the Constitution of India.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fiftieth Year of the Republic of India as follows :

1. Short title and commencement: (*1*) This Act may be called the Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Act, 1999.

(*2*) It shall come into force on the 25th day of January, 2000.

2. Amendment of article 334: In article 334 of the Constitution, for the words "fifty years", the words "sixty years" shall be substituted.

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SESSIONAL REVIEW

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRD SESSION

A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

The Third Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 23 February 2000 was adjourned on 17 March till 16 April 2000, to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The Session adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2000. The House was later prorogued on 23 May 2000. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 23 February to 17 March 2000* is given below :

Railway Budget, 2000-2001: On 25 February 2000, presenting the Railway Budget, 2000-2001, the Minister of Railways, Kumari Mamata Banerjee said that the growth of the Railways since its inception had directly contributed to the economic and social development of the nation. Now, the Railways would have to develop a vision for the new millennium. Railways would carry not only passengers and goods but would also carry information across the country and beyond. With the overall economic recovery, Railways would achieve freight loading target of 450 million tonnes. However, the freight earnings would fall short of target by Rs. 250 crore due to various reasons. There had been an impressive growth in passenger earnings which reached about Rs. 7,800 crore by the end of January, 2000 which marked an increase of Rs. 850 crore over the previous year's earnings during the corresponding period. Other coaching and sundry earnings had been quite encouraging and would enable the Railways to partly offset the shortfall in goods earnings. In the Budget Estimates 1999-2000, a target of Rs. 200 crore was kept for clearance of outstanding dues which the State Electricity Boards/

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* Sessional Review covering the rest of the period will be carried in the September 2000 issue of the JPI (Vol. XLVI, No.3, September 2000). Complete details regarding Question Hour and Obituary References will also be carried in the said issue

Power Houses owe to the Railways. Despite the best efforts of the Railways, there had been very little clearance of the dues.

Pensionary liabilities were assessed to go up to Rs 4,094 crore against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 3,300 crore, which had adversely affected the internal generation of resources by the Railways and accordingly the plan expenditure had been re-assessed and kept at Rs. 8,965 crore against the budget outlay of Rs. 9,700 crore. The Minister, however, assured the House that the reduction in Plan expenditure would not affect any safety–related works.

The Railways had initiated several steps to augment earnings and curtail expenditure for increasing the internal resources and also intend to raise revenues from other non-traditional sources. The Ministry had constituted a Task Force in that regard. The recommendations of the Task Force would be implemented in a time bound manner.

Safety in rail operations would be accorded the highest priority and maximum possible investments. Indian Railways would also arrest the slippage of market share and improve the traffic during the first decade of the new millennium.

The Government proposed to enhance the allocation of Rs. 200 crore in 2000-2001 for passenger amenities constituting a 52 per cent increase over the current year.

The freight traffic target had been fixed at 475 million tonnes, an increment of 25 million tonnes over the current year's target of 450 million tonnes. To facilitate adequate availability of rolling stock for freight movement, a higher requirement of 23,000 wagons had been projected by the Indian Railways.

For passenger traffic, a 5 per cent increase had been provided in keeping with the long-term growth in the passenger traffic. Ordinary working expenses would amount to Rs. 35,552 crore, leading to Net Traffic Receipts of Rs. 377 crore. Net Miscellaneous Receipts were estimated at Rs. 815 crore, which would take into account Rs. 300 crore proposed to be received from the General Revenues for the Railways' safety works.

The dividend projected in the Budget Estimates of the year 2000-2001 was Rs. 2,115 crore but in view of a shortfall in the internal resources for Plan needs, it was proposed to pay to General Revenues only Rs. 615 crore and transfer the balance of Rs. 1,500 crore to the Deferred Dividend Liability Account.

An amount of Rs. 249 crore was proposed to be taken as loan for

the Capital Fund from the budgetary support of Rs. 3,540 crore which would leave a gap of Rs. 600 crore, which would be mobilised additionally. The Railways had proposed rationalisation in the tariff and classification of certain commodities. There would be no increase in the freight rate for essential commodities.

The Combined Discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2000-2001 and the Demands for Grants on Account in respect of Budget (Railways), 2000-2001 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways), 1999-2000 took place on 14 March 2000

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Vaiko (Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) said that the Railway systems had been facing restructuring problems.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Basudeb Acharia, G. Ganga Reddy, Chandra Bhushan Singh, Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Ramesh Chennithala, Raghunath Jha, Raashid Alvi, Shriniwas Patil, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, T. Govindan, Vilas Muttemwar, Saroj Tufani, Ram Singh Kaswan, M. Chinnasamy, Jagadambi Prasad Yadav, Anant Gudhe, Sant Kumar Mandal, Sukhdeo Paswan, P.R. Kunte, P.S. Gadhavi, Haribhai Choudhary, Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya, Satyavarat Chaturvedi, Mansukhbhai Vasava, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Anand Mohan Biswas, Nihal Chand Chauhan, Salduzzama, Ram Tahal Chaudhary, A. Krishnaswamy, Madhab Rajbangshi, Arun Kumar, Amar Roy Pradhan, A.K.S. Vijayan, K.A. Sangtam, Adhi Sankar, P. Rajendran, Suresh Chandel, Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, P. Mohan, Prabhat Samantray, Virendra Kumar, S.S. Palanimanickam, Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi, Shyam Lal Bansiwal, V.M. Sudheeran, Mohammad Anwarul Haque, S. Ajay Kumar, Shamsher Singh Dullo, K. Malaisamy, Kishan Lal Diler, Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, Ram Naresh Tripathee, Vishnu Dev Sai, Maheshwar Singh, Shyam Bihari Mishra, Dalpat Singh Parste, Prahlad Singh Patel, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Uttamrao Dhikale, Chandra Pratap Singh, Padam Sen Choudhary, Basangouda R. Patil, Ram Raghunath Chaudhary, Ramshakal, Suresh Chandel, Radha Mohan Singh, Samar Choudhury, Chintaman Wanga, Ramsinh Rathwa, Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, Krishanamraju, S. Murugesan, Subodh Mohite, Abul Haşnat Khan, Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, Shriprakash Jaiswal, Ashok Argal, Yogi Aditya Nath, Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Paban Singh Ghatowar, Bhartruhari Mahtab, V.P. Singh Badnore, D. Venugopal, Sunil Khan, Bikram Keshari Deo, Rampal Singh, Kirti Jha Azad, Tarachand Bhagora, K. Muraleedharan, Vaidya Vishnu Datt Sharma, Anant Nayak, Dinesh Chandra Yadav, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Joachim Baxla, Vijay Kumar Khandelwal, Chhattrapal Singh, Anandrao Vithoba Adsul, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) B.C. Khanduri, Bhan Singh Bhaura, Kharabela Swain, Kodikunnil Suresh, Parshuram Majhi, Ramdas Athawale, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Prakashmani Tripathi, Lakshman Seth, Suresh Kurup, Sujan Singh Bundela, Tilakdhari Prasad Singh, Ramanand Singh, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary, Brahmanand Mandal, C. Sreenivasan, A.P. Abdullakutty, Mohan Rawale, Ashok Pradhan, Punnu Lal Mohale, Ramchander Bainda, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Sanjay Paswan, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panja, Dr. Ramanaidu Daggubati, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome, Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah, Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal, Dr. N. Venkataswamy, Dr. Ashok Patil, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. V. Saroja, Dr.(Smt.) Sudha Yadav, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Prof. I.G. Sanadi, Prof. A.K. Premajam, Smt. Sushila Saroj, Smt. Sheela Gautam, Smt. Nivedita Mane, Smt. Abha Mahato, Smt. Renu Kumari, Smt. Minati Sen, Smt. Jayashree Banerjee, Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo and Smt. Jayaben B. Thakkar

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (Janata Dal (Secular)) said that the backlog of vacancies for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes should be filled up by the Railway Recruitment Board.

Taking part in the discussion, Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora (Indian National Lok Dal) said that Fatehabad, a central place from the trade point of view, should be provided rail link facility.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that Railway facilities should be extended to the backward parts of the country.

Shri K. Francis George (Kerala Congress) said that the Government needed to provide large-scale training facilities and extensive research and development to improve passenger facilities and to attract higher value freight.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress (M)) said that there was an urgent need for more trains to Kerala.

Participating in the discussion, Shri P.H. Pandian (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) requested the Minister to realise the outstanding amounts due to the Railways from the power stations.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Ali Mohammed Naik (Jammu and Kashmir National Conference) said that for the last fifty years, Jammu and Kashmir have been ignored in every walk of life.

Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram Shandil (Himachal Vikas Congress) requested the Minister for the upgradation and extension of Railway lines in Himachal Pradesh.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Railways, Kumari Mamata Banerjee said that the Railways were not only the main life line of the country but also the main communication system for the people of the country.

All the Demands for Grants on Accounts (Railways) were voted in full. All the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) were voted in full. The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2000 was passed. The Appropriation (Railways), 2000 Bill was passed.

The Budget (General), 2000-2001: On 29 February 2000, presenting the Budget for 2000-2001 the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the year 1999-2000 had been a year of many challenges. India had strengthened its agricultural sector, energised its financial markets and laid the foundations of an exciting new economy. The next ten years would be India's decade for development. To achieve the objective, the strategy of the Government would encompass the foundations

of growth for rural economy; nurture the revolutionary potential of the new knowledge—based industries; strengthen and modernise traditional industries; mount a sustained assault on infrastructure bottlenecks in power, roads, ports, telecom, railways and airways; accord the highest priority to human resource development through programmes and policies in education, health and other social services; strengthen India's role in the world economy; and establish a credible framework of fiscal discipline. In all these areas, the Government would pursue thorough–going economic reforms to unlock the creative energies of the people and thus reap the gains of productive growth.

The year 2000 had incurred unanticipated expenditure on national defence and also because of the General Elections and the super cyclone in Orissa. The residual impact of the Fifth Pay Commission and the need for special fiscal assistance to the States had added to the burden.

The Government was fully committed that the fruits of development would be shared by all sections of the society. Universalisation of elementary education, drinking water facilities in all rural habitations, and rural housing schemes would be some of the key objectives of the Government.

There was an urgent need for improving the access of women to national resources and for ensuring their rightful place in the mainstream of economic development. Towards this objective, the Government would set up a Task Force under an eminent person to review all the existing legislation and schemes pertaining to the role of women in the national economy.

To fully benefit from the new intellectual property rights regime, the Government would encourage scientists and research and development institutions to maximise their patenting efforts. The Government had decided to allow Universities and research institutions to retain the revenue generated from intellectural property rights.

The Government had also decided to consider recapitalisation of the weak banks to achieve the prescribed capital adequacy norms. Efficient and effective mechanisms for the recovery of bank dues were important for reducing Non-Performing Assets in the Public Sector Banks.

The Government had recently established a new Department for Disinvestment to establish a systematic policy approach to disinvestment and privatisation and to give a fresh impetus to the programme, which would emphasize on strategic sale of identified Public Sector Undertakings.

In the budget estimates for the year 2000-2001, the total expenditure was estimated at Rs. 3,38,487 crore, of which Rs. 88,100 crore was for Plan and Rs. 2,50,387 crore for non-Plan expenditure.

The Plan for the year 2000-2001 focused on basic infrastructure with energy, transport and communications accounting for 60 per cent of the total Central Plan Outlay. The Outlay for Social Service marked an increase of 21.5 per cent over the year 1999-2000. The Central Plan Assistance to the States and the Union territories in 2000-2001 was placed at Rs. 36,824 crore as compared to Rs. 35,735 crore in the revised estimates of 1999-2000.

The non-Plan expenditure in 2000-2001 had been estimated to be Rs. 2,50,387 crore compared to Rs. 2,24,343 crore in the revised estimates for 1999-2000, showing an increase of Rs. 26,044 crore. The increase in non-Plan expenditure was mainly in defence, interest payments and grants to the States. Major subsidies on food and fertilizers would constitute a significant portion of the non-Plan expenditure.

As regards tax proposals, both the Centre and the States would depend heavily on indirect taxes. The Government needed to overhaul the rate structure and rationalise and simplify the procedures to reduce the compliance cost for the tax payer. The Government would establish a single rate Central Value Added Tax at the Centre.

As regards customs duties, the Government would have to maintain a judicious balance between the need for providing adequate protection and growth impulses to the domestic industry and calibrating tariffs to international levels.

As a result of various proposals made in the budget on the direct taxes, the estimated revenue in 2000-2001 would be Rs.72,105 crore, including the component of additional resource mobilisation of Rs. 5,080 crore. The Government had estimated total tax revenue receipts for the Centre at Rs. 1,46,209 crore and the fiscal deficit at Rs. 1,11,275 crore or 5.1 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Growth would increase employment and raise the living standards of the people, especially the poorest sections of the society. Sustained, broad-based growth, combined with all programmes for accelerating rural development, building roads, promoting construction of houses, boosting knowledge-based industries and enhancing the quality of human resource would impart a strong impetus to employment expansion.

The combined discussion on the Budget (General), 2000-2001, the Demands for Grants on Accounts in respect of Budget (General),

2000-2001 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1999-2000 took place on 15 March 2000.

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that the Budget would lead to unemployment, regional imbalances and price rise.

Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora (Indian National Lok Dal) urged the Government to withdraw the subsidy reduction on fertilizers and foodgrains.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Jayanta Rongpi (Communist Party of India (ML) said that the Budget would create further economic uncertainty and instability in the country.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (Janata Dal (Secular) said that attention should be paid to land reforms, drinking water facility and agriculture.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri P.H. Pandian (All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) said that the common man should occupy the centre stage of all developmental efforts.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena) said that more attention would have to be paid to the cooperative sector.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Government had to face many challenges and it would overcome those challenges.

All the Demands for Grants on Accounts (General), 2000-2001 and all the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 1999-2000 were voted in full. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000 and the relevant Appropriation Bill, 2000 were passed.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Madhavrao Scindia, Rupchand Pal, K. Yerrannaidu, Akhilesh Yadav, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Mani Shankar Aiyar, P. Kumarasamy, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Kirit Somaiya, Shanta Kumar, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Mohan Rawale, Krishnamraju, P.R. Kyndiah, Yogi Aditya Nath, Vaidya Vishnu Datt Sharma, Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, Varkala Radhakrishnan, M.V.V.S. Murthi, Trilochan Kanungo, Ram Tahal Chaudhary, Bir Singh Mahato, Ravi Prakash Verma, C. Kuppusami, Pravin Rashtrapal, Ramshakal, Bikram Keshari Deo, Nawal Kishore Rai, Bishnu Pada Ray, Vijay Kumar Khandelwal, Ramdas Athawale, Joachim Baxla, M. Master Mathan, Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore, Abdul Rashid Shaheen, A.C. Jos, Subodh Roy, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, M. Chinnasamy, Shyam Bihari Mishra, P.S. Gadhavi, Bijoy Krishna Handique, Saroj Tufani, Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi, K. Malaisamy, Jagmeet Singh Brar, Virendra Kumar, Prakash Paranjpe, K.H. Muniyappa, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, A.F. Golam Osmani, Dr. C. Krishnan, Dr. V. Saroja, Dr. A.D.K. Jeyaseelan, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Prof. Kailasho Devi, Smt. Sushila Saroj and Smt. Jaishree Banerjee

Statement by the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs on Strike by the Lawyers: Making a Statement in the House on 25 February 2000, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Ram Jethmalani said that various lawyers' organisations had given advance notice of a strike from court work scheduled for 24 February 2000. Earlier, the Secretary of the Bar Association of Delhi and some of his colleagues had met the Police authorities on 23 February 2000 and the route and timing of their proposed procession and demonstration had been sorted out. Nothing untoward was expected. Everyone believed that there would be a peaceful march which would end at the usual barricades with the presentation of representation by selected lawyers. Unfortunately, a series of violent incidents occurred near the barricades. The lawyers and the Police had conflicting versions of what had happened. The lawyers were agitated by the indignity and injuries they had suffered. The Police, on the other hand, claimed that they had shown unusual restraint in the face of disorderly conduct and strictly discharged their duties. These rival versions would call for a totally impartial and thorough probe. The probe would be facilitated as the Media had taken pictures of major incidents and the Police had videotaped the procession from the beginning to the end. The Government had extended all concerned assurance of justice and punishment of the guilty.

Statement by the Minister of Home Affairs on the suspension of Operations against the Bodo Liberation Tigers: Making a Statement in the House on 15 March 2000, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that the activities of various militant groups in the State of Assam had seriously disturbed the public order resulting in the loss of life and property, besides thwarting the economic development of the State. The Union Government had extended an invitation to all the militant groups to come forward for talks within the framework of the Constitution.

In pursuance of the said offer, the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) had suspended its operations against the Army, Para-military Forces and the State Police. The BLT had agreed not to indulge in any unlawful activities in case the Government would announce suspension of operations against it. In order to create an environment conducive for talks for finding a solution to the Bodo problems, the Government had decided to suspend operations against the BLT with immediate effect.

Efforts were continuing to convince other militant groups in the North–East to suspend their violent and unlawful activities and come to the negotiating table.

Statement by the Minister of Home Affairs regarding the incident of Caste violence in Kolar district, Karnataka: Making a Statement in the House on 16 March 2000, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that as per the information available two incidents of violence and counter violence between members of the Reddy community and the Scheduled Castes had taken place in the village Kambalapalli in the District Kolar, Karnataka.

The sequence of events revealed that on 11 March 2000, a group of persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste community stabbed one member of the Reddy Community, who died on the spot. In retaliation, another group of persons belonging to the Reddy community attacked the colony inhabited by the Scheduled Caste community.

The State Police had arrested 15 persons in connection with the violence. Additional Police force had also been stationed at the Village as well as the Special Divisional headquarters at Chintamani and District Headquarters, Kolar. Prohibitory orders had been enforced at Chintamani and Kambalapalli areas. The Chief Minister of Karnataka, the State Home Minister and other leaders had visited the spot and assured protection to the remaining Scheduled Caste families and arranged relief operations. The Chief Minister of Karnataka had announced a judicial inquiry into the incident and also announced *ex gratia* compensation of Rs. 1 lakh each, suitable employment to the next of kin of those killed and rehabilitation of the affected people and assured stringent action against those who were responsible for the heinous crimes.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the Telecom Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000:* Moving the Statutory Resolution on 13 March 2000 , Shri Basudeb Acharia said that a Committee was constituted to strengthen and give more powers to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The main purpose behind the promulgation of the Ordinance and the consequent enactment of the Bill was to free the Telecom Regulatory Authority from the jurisdiction of the High Court and the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG). Now a consumer anywhere in the country affected by the decision of the TRAI could not appeal to the High Court; instead, he would have to make an appeal to an Appellate Body. If the consumer was dissatisfied with the

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9 March 2000

decision of the Appellate Body, then only could he appeal to the Supreme Court. Shri Acharia demanded that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee and scrutinised before it could be brought for consideration of the House.

Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, the Minister of Communications, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said that the Bill was first passed in 1997. At that time, the TRAI was mainly given recommendatory, regulatory, dispute settlement and tariff fixation powers and there was supremacy of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Thus, a demand was made time and again that there should be an independent regulatory authority. For the purpose, a Committee and a Sub-Committee were constituted. The Government had accepted the recommendations contained in the reports of both the Committees which had come in the form of the present Bill. The recommendatory, regulatory, and tariff powers had been provided to the TRAI. A provision had been made to set up a separate tribunal for dispute settlement. When the Government asked for recommendations, the TRAI would have to review the same within 15 days and after that the Government would take decisions. Additional functions had also been assigned to the TRAI. There would be no interference of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in the working of the TRAI. The Government had formulated the policy to strengthen the TRAI and make the body independent.

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Communications, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said that the Government would bring the latest technology in the Communications sector by the year 2002. Every rural area would be provided not only with a telephone but also the Internet. The Chairman of the Tribunal would be a sitting or former Judge of the Supreme Court or a sitting Chief Justice or former Chief Justice of a High Court. His appointment would be made in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Statutory Resolution was negatived and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of Recovery of Debts

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Rajiv Pratap Rudi, Rupchand Pal, M.V.V.S. Murthy, C.N. Singh, Ajoy Chakraborty, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Ramdas Athawale, and Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat

due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 and the Recovery of debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2000:* Moving the Statutory Resolution on 13 March 2000, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan said that the parent Act which was passed in 1993 was held to be *ultra vires* by the Delhi High Court. In the matter of recovery of debts, the policy was anti-people.

Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions Act was initially enacted in 1993 to provide for the establishment of tribunals for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions and for matters connected therewith. Based on the observations of the High Court and suggestions of the working group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Rajya Sabha, the Act had been amended suitably through the Ordinance. The Bill sought to replace the Ordinance.

Participating in the discussion**, Shri P.H. Pandian (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) said that the present legislation would be under the dictate of the Supreme Court and the supremacy of the Parliament would be mortgaged.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (Rashtriya Janata Dal) said that there should be stringent rules for the recovery of the bank loans.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the financial sector of the country had not only to be strengthened but would have to be brought at par with the most stringent international prudential norms. The Bill would bring the culprits and the willful defaulters to book. It would be the endeavour of the Government to impart greater professionalism to the bank managers.

The Statutory Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Bill was passed.

*The Mizoram University Bill***, 2000:* Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, on 16 March 2000, the Minister of Human Resources Development, Science and Technology and Ocean Development, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said that the Bill sought to establish and incor-

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9 March 2000

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Molnul Hassan, Kirit Somaiya, Prakash Paranjpe and Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah

*** The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 23 February 2000

porate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Mizoram and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Replying to the discussion*, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said that the Government had paid great attention to education and the economic development of the North-East region. There had been considerable progress in the field of education in Mizoram and as such the Government had decided to set up a Central University in the State.

The Bill was passed.

RAJYA SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION**

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Eighty-ninth (189th) Session on 23 February 2000, was adjourned on 16 March 2000, to meet again on 17 April 2000. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2000 and was then prorogued by the President on 23 May 2000.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 23 February to 16 March 2000, is given below***:

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

Statement by the Prime Minister on his visit to Mauritius: On 16 March 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in a statement in the House, said that he was invited by the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, to be the Chief Guest on the occasion of the first Independence Day celebrations in the new millennium. He said that his visit, from 10 to 12 March, had provided an opportunity to renew contacts at the highest level with Mauritius and to sustain the momentum in the special relationship which was deeply rooted in the linkages of religion, language, culture and shared civilisational heritage. Three agreements on bilateral cooperation in the field of trade and commerce, information technology, and supply of coastal surveil-

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* Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, M.V.V.S. Murthi, Vanlal Zawma, Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary, Rajo Singh and Prof. A.K. Premajam

** Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

*** Complete details regarding the Question Hour and Obituary References of the 189th Session will be carried in the September 2000 issue of the *Journal of Parliamentary Information* (Vol. XLVI, No. 3, September 2000)

lance equipment with a credit of US 9 million dollars and a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of oceanography had been signed. Direct air links would be established between Port Louis and Chennai. The Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture had also been set up with assistance from the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). Along with Prime Minister, Dr. Ramgoolam, he laid the foundation of an educational-cum-cultural institution named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at Ilot village in the northern part of Mauritius. India would contribute US 1 million dollar towards implementing the project. The visit had helped to further cement bilateral relations between the two countries. It would be the policy of the Government to continue to build upon this relationship in the future, the Prime Minister added.

Steep Hike in the Price of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) Milk causing immense hardship to the Common Man: On 13 March 2000, Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy called the attention of the Minister of Agriculture in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav said that the DMS supplied about 12 per cent of the total requirement of milk in Delhi. On 1 March 2000, the sale price had been revised to Rs.14 and Rs.11 per litre for pouch toned and double toned milk, respectively. It had brought about parity between the selling prices of the DMS milk and the Mother Dairy Milk. During the period September 1992 to February 2000, the cost of raw material had gone up considerably. It had resulted in a heavy subsidy burden on the Exchequer. For maintaining a supply of 4 lakh litres per day, at the old selling prices, the subsidy outgo had been as much as Rs.8 crore a month. The Ministry of Finance had found it unable to continue subsidies of that order due to the overall financial stringency. Since the sale price of the DMS milk was almost half of the selling price fixed by other dairies, there was a pressure of demand on DMS milk. There were largescale allegations of black marketing also. The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi had been reluctant to accept transfer of DMS unless the sale prices of DMS milk were appropriately revised, since otherwise it would have to bear the onus either of raising prices or making huge subsidy payments. He said that the Government had decided that in future, the DMS would maintain parity in the sale price of its milk with the Mother Dairy.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sunder Lal Patwa said that the Government had stopped black marketing by hiking prices of milk supplied by the DMS. It had also tried to remove a big anomaly in the prices of the DMS milk and those being

sold in the open market. The question of withdrawal of increase in the prices of DMS milk did not arise, he concluded.

The situation arising out of the mounting Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of many of the public sector banks and need for urgent steps for restoration of the health of such banks: On 14 March 2000, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta called the attention of the Minister of Finance in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that asset classification and income recognition norms had been initially applied to the banking sector in 1992. The banks started asset classification and identification of NPAs on objective basis of defaults/record of recovery from 1992-93. However, in absolute terms, the net NPAs of Public Sector Banks had increased from Rs.20285 crore as on 31 March 1997 to Rs. 24211 crore as on 31 March 1999, while declining as a percentage of net advances from 9.18 per cent to 8.13 per cent during the same period.

The Minister said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government as well as the Public Sector Banks had taken a number of steps not only to check the fresh incidence of NPAs but also to ensure the recovery of NPAs. The steps taken by the RBI, the Government of India and the Public Sector Banks included the preparation of documents of loan recovery policy, reduction through negotiated settlement ensuring maximum recovery at minimum cost, strengthening the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) mechanism, setting up of the settlement advisory committees and focusing on recoveries by setting up recovery cells at Head Offices. He said that in order to strengthen the DRT mechanism, an Ordinance had been promulgated on 17 January 2000 to amend the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993. The Ordinance provided, *inter alia*, for set-off and counter claims, measures for prevention of alienation of property, appointment of receivers and commissioners by the Tribunals, appointment of more than one recovery officer, and empowering the Tribunals to distribute the sale proceeds among secured creditors in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. In addition, the Minister said that he had proposed to set up four more DRTs in Mumbai and one each in Calcutta, Delhi and Chennai. A Credit Information Bureau to facilitate sharing of credit-related information on borrowers and potential borrowers would also be set up.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that the NPAs were not the result of the liberalization policies. The Govern-

ment would endeavour to take effective steps to bring the NPAs down to four per cent within a given period of time. The Government would recapitalise the banks and think in terms of new mechanisms and a financial restructuring authority. There would be no disinvestments and privatization. As regards the functioning of the State Level Banking Committees (SLBCs), the Government had made it a point to go to State capitals and attend the meetings of the SLBCs in order to ensure that they functioned properly. The Government would come down heavily on defaulters so that NPAs were reduced, the Minister added.

Short Duration Discussion on the failure of the Government of India to prevail upon the Gujarat government to withdraw circular removing the ban on its employees participating in the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) activities: Initiating a Short Duration Discussion in this regard on 28 February 2000, Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed concern at the attempts to destroy the basic edifice of a politically neutral Civil Service and said that to say that an organization was not illegal was not a sufficient proof to make an organization fit for the Government servant to participate. He further stated that if the lead of the Gujarat Government was followed by the Governments of other States, it would constitute a serious subversion of the Constitution of India. He said that the issue called for the intervention of the Prime Minister and the Government to protect and safeguard the Constitution of India.

Taking part in the discussion* Shri J. Chitharanjan argued that India's democratic structure, its unity and secularism would not prevail if Government employees as a whole were politicized.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri R. Margabandu appealed to the Government to assure the nation that the Government could be neutral, impartial and above politics.

Shri Satishchandra Sitaram Pradhan argued that everybody who had the right to vote under the Constitution had the right to express his or her views freely in the country. The RSS was not registered as a political party with the Election Commission and had worked as a social

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ramdas Agrawal, S. Ramachandran Pillai, Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu, Naresh Yadav, Janeshwar Misra, Brahmakumar Bhatt, V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, Kuldip Nayar, Praful Goradia, Kapil Sibal, Gandhi Azad, Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Narendra Mohan, S. Peter Alphonse, Abani Roy, Madhavsinh Solanki, Onkar Singh Lakhawat, Sanatan Bisi, Rama Shanker Kaushik, Sangh Priya Gautam, Jalaludin Ansari, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Shrimati Sarla Maheswari and Shrimati Saroj Dubey

political party with the Election Commission and had worked as a social organization.

Participating in the discussion, Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan said that the Civil Service had to be in every way above narrow political and partisan considerations. The entire administrative system would otherwise collapse.

Intervening in the debate, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Ram Jethmalani said that if a matter lay within the jurisdiction of a State and if the State Government was satisfied that the people were quite responsive to the action, that State might do that, but that act should not necessarily be repeated at the Centre.

Shri Sharief-ud-din Shariq said that an impartial Government would have to be formed which would neither be controlled by the RSS or Jamait-e-Islami.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani observed that it was a general concept that a Government employee had to be apolitical. The decision taken by the Government of Gujarat was its own decision without any consultation with the Central Government. He said that the RSS was banned in 1948. A question about the RSS had been raised in Parliament only once and in reply thereto, it had been stated that RSS wa-=\s not included in the list of political parties. He argued that the Gujarat Government had taken the said action under the Gujarat State Civil Services Conduct Rules, 1971 and Article 256 of the Constitution. He said that he did not find a single provision of the Constitution or law disregarded by the State Government. Since the BJP had succeeded in providing a stable Government under a remarkable leadership, the RSS issue had been raised all of a sudden. The RSS had been trying to instill in every citizen the same idealism, patriotism and character that had always been subscribed. He observed that the entire issue had become political. He concluded that the Government saw no reason why any constitutional directive had to be given to the State Government in this regard.

Short Duration Discussion on the role of Governors in Discharging their Constitutional responsibilities in the formation of Governments in the States in the light of recent events in Bihar: Initiating a Short Duration Discussion in this regard on 13 March 2000, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the problem of appointing a Chief Minister arose when the Governor had to satisfy himself in case of a fractured mandate. He wanted to know what prompted the Governor of Bihar to invite the leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to form the Gov-

ernment when the stated position of the political parties was known to him. He alleged that the Governor had misused his office, in failing to discharge his constitutional responsibility. He said that the Governor had to be recalled.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri R. Margabandu, said that it was at the instance of the Central Government that the Governor had acted undemocratically and invited the NDA to head the Government. It was an anti-democratic attitude adopted by the Governor.

Shri Shankar Roy Chowdhury said that the office of the Governor had been so much misused and corroded that very few people had any faith in the institution. Unless the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations and the rulings of the Supreme Court were followed and men of proven integrity and public confidence put in the office of the Governor, the debate would be repeated in future.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Ram Jethmalani said that he wished to make it clear that the principles on which the Governor had to act in the matter of selecting and appointing the Chief Minister of the State were not in dispute or in doubt. Since the principle was not in doubt, the action, validity and the bona fides of the action of the Governor had to be judged by the main matrix of facts before the Government.

Shri Sharief-ud-din Shariq said that the sanctity of law and the Constitution would have to be maintained at any cost.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that there was nothing on the basis of which it could be said that the Governor deliberately violated the Constitution and adopted a partisan attitude. So far as the Governor was concerned, he had only said that he would not do anything unless Assembly names were notified. The notification came on 29 February 2000. A full week had almost passed between the declaration of results on 25 February and 3 March 2000. On the basis of the evidence the Governor had, the NDA-led alliance had a strength of 151 whereas the RJD-led alliance had 133 members only. It was for that reason that he had decided to call Shri Nitish Kumar to form the Government. There was, therefore, no proposal to recall the Governor, Shri Advani concluded.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Gurudas Das Gupta, M. Venkaiah Naidu, S. Ramachandran Pillai, Ram Deo Bhandary, Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu, Mohd. Azam Khan, Kapil Sibal, S.R. Bommai and Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1999:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 28 February 2000, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was responsible for providing long-term assistance to Small Scale Industries (SSI). Comprehensive amendments to the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989 proposed in the Bill sought to delink SIDBI from IDBI, enlarge the share holders' base of SIDBI, strengthen its capital structure, and provide it with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility.

Replying to the debate**, the Minister said that almost 40 per cent of the country's export was contributed by the small scale sector. The Government had been doing everything which it could do to promote technology in small-scale industry. The Bill would go a long way in promoting the interests of the SSI.

The Motion for consideration of the Bill, and the Clauses, etc., as amended, were adopted and the Bill, as amended was passed the same day.

*Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000***:* Moving the Statutory Resolution on 15 March 2000, Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia said that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Ordinance was promulgated in utmost haste. The overhauling of the TRAI should have been done after adequate discussions. He urged the Government to withdraw the Ordinance.

Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 15 March 2000, the Minister of Communications, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan**** said that

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* The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 23 December 1999

** Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Khagen Das, S. Viduthalai Virumbi and Gopalsinh G. Solanki

*** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 14 March 2000

****Those who took part in the discussion that followed were : Sarvashri Kapil Sibal, T.N. Chaturvedi, Nilotpal Basu, C. Ramachandraiah, S. Viduthalai Virumbi, and Drupad Borgohain

the new Bill sought to vest the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India with recommendatory as well as regulatory powers. A separate tribunal had been constituted for disputes settlement. Obtaining recommendations of TRAI had been made obligatory for the Government. Any person having specific knowledge in the field of telecom industry, finance, accounting and management could be entitled to become Chairman of the Authority. The tenure for Chairman and Members had been fixed at 3 years or 65 years of age, whichever was earlier. Regarding Audit, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) would not audit regulatory function, tariff and direction to service providers. With regard to Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, the majority of adjudicatory powers had been given to the Tribunal. In its composition, the Tribunal would have one Chairman and two Members. The Minister said that the objective of the Bill was to create confidence among investors and develop the telecom industry

The Statutory Resolution was negatived.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed the same day.

The Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2000:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 15 March 2000, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Bill sought to strengthen the legal framework for recovery of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Banks and financial institutions.

Replying to the debate**, the Minister said that the amendment sought to give to the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) the power to be able to attach the property of defaulters even during the pendency of the case. The Government had taken a conscious decision not to implement the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee on Assets Reconstruction Fund. The Government was determined to come down heavily on all defaulters and reduce the size of the NPAs in the country.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed the same day.

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* The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 14 March 2000

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Vayalar Ravi, Raghavji, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta and Dr. M.N. Das

STATE LEGISLATURES

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Second Delhi Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Budget Session on 22 March 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 7 April 2000.

Address by the Lt. Governor: The Lt. Governor of Delhi addressed the House on 22 March 2000. The Motion of Thanks to the Lt. Governor for his address was moved and later discussed on 3, 4 and 5 April 2000. The Chief Minister replied to the debate and the motion was adopted.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Delhi Official Languages Bill, 2000; (ii) The Delhi Ancient and Historical Monuments and Sites and Remains Bill, 2000; (iii) The Delhi Tax on Luxuries (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2000; (v) The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2000; (vi) The Delhi Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000; and (vii) The Delhi Members of Metropolitan Council (Enhancement of Pension) Bill, 2000.

Financial business: During the Session, for the first time, the Economic Survey of NCT of Delhi for the year 1999-2000 was presented on 23 March 2000. The Budget for the year 2000-2001 was presented on 27 March 2000. The Budget was discussed for three days and was passed on 30 March 2000.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma and on the killings of members of the minority community by terrorists in the Anantnag District of Jammu and Kashmir.

MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA**

The Eleventh Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha commenced its Third Session on 25 October 1999 and was adjourned *sine die* on 26 November 1999.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Madhya Pradesh Motoryan Karadhan

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* Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat

(Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (ii) The Bharatiya Stamp (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (iii) The Madhya Pradesh Manoranjan Shulka Tatha Vigyapan Par Kar (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (iv) The Karagar (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (v) The Madhya Pradesh Swayatta Sahakarita Vidheyak, 1999; (vi) The Madhya Pradesh Zilla Yojana Samiti (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; (vii) The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No. 4) Vidheyak, 1999; (viii) The Madhya Pradesh Gram Tatha Nagar Raksha Samiti Vidheyak, 1999; (ix) The Maharshi Mahesh Yogi Vedic Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1999; and (x) The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No. 5) Vidheyak, 1999.

Financial business: On 17 November 1999, the Finance Minister, Shri Ajai Mushran introduced the Second Supplementary Demands for the year 1999-2000 which were passed by the House on 18 November, 1999. The Excess Demands on Grants for the year 1989-90 were introduced on 25 November 1999 and were passed by the House the next day.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of former Governor of Gujarat and sitting member, Shri Krishnapal Singh; former (Union) Ministers of State, Dr. (Smt.) Rajendra Kumari Bajpai and Shri Kalpnath Rai, former member of Parliament, Shri Baboorao Paranjpe; sitting members, Shri Shiv Pratap Singh and Pt. Onkar Prasad Tiwari, and former members, Sarvashri K.N. Pradhan, Ramji Mahajan, Mangi Lal Bhandari, Kunwar Yashwant Singh Kushwah, Rana Balbahadur Singh, Ranjit Singh, Shridharlal Hardenia, Donger Singh Patel, Bhagwan Singh, Surti Kistaiya Papaiya, Ramchandra Bajpai and Lakhan Singh Solanki. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of veteran freedom fighter and well known journalist, Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari; the persons who lost their lives in the train mishap which occurred near Gaisal, West Bengal and the bus accident in the Jam river in Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh; and the victims of the Orissa super cyclone.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Maharashtra Legislative Assembly commenced its First Session on 20 October 1999 and was prorogued on 23 October 1999.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra addressed

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Assembly Secretariat

both the Houses on 22 October 1999. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his address was moved. It was decided to discuss the motion in the next Session.

Election of Speaker: On 22 October 1999, Shri Arun Gujrathi of the Nationalist Congress Party was elected as the Speaker of the Assembly.

Confidence Motion: During the Session, the Chief Minister, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh sought a Vote of Confidence on the floor of the House which was passed unanimously.

Legislative business: During the Session, the Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1999 was passed by the House.

Financial business: On 22 October 1999, the Chief Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 1999-2000 which were passed on 23 October 1999.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives fighting against Pakistani intruders in Kargil, Drass and Batalik areas. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of Shri Marzban Patrawala who was elected to the House but died before taking oath and twenty-three former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

The Tenth Maharashtra Legislative Assembly commenced its Second Session on 13 December 1999 and was prorogued on 24 December 1999.

Discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address: During the Session, the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his address took place for two days. The motion was adopted by the House without any amendment.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (ii) The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (iii) The Maharashtra Pre-School Centres (Regulation of Admission) (Amendment) (Amendment) Bill, 1999; (iv) The Maharashtra Metropolitan Planning Committees (Constitution and Functions) (Continuance of Provisions) Bill, 1999; (v) The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (vi) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (vii) The Coronors (Maharashtra Repeal) Bill, 1999; (viii) The Maharashtra

Krishna Valley Development Corporation, the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, the Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, the Maharashtra Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (ix) The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (x) The Maharashtra Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (xi) The Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) (Continuance) Bill, 1999; (xii) The Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) (Retrospective Extension of Duration and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (xiii) The Bombay Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (xiv) The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1999; (xv) The Maharashtra Sales Tax on the Transfer of Property in Goods Involved in the Execution of Works Contracts (Re-enacted) (Amendment) Bill, 1999; (xvi) The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1999; (xvii) The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1999; (xviii) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1999; and (xix) The Maharashtra Rent Control Bill, 1993

Financial business: During the Session, the Minister of State for Finance presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 1999-2000 on 14 December 1999. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands took place on 20-21 December 1999.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of four former members of the Legislative Assembly.

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Orissa Legislative Assembly which commenced its Seventeenth Session on 10 December 1999, was adjourned *sine die* on 18 December 1999. The House was prorogued on 10 January 2000. There were seven sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following two Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Orissa Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 1999; and (ii) The Orissa Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

Financial business: On 10 December 1999, the Finance Minister

presented the First Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1999-2000. Two Demands on the Budget were discussed and Grants were made and the rest of the Demands were guillotined. The relevant Appropriation Bill was passed.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former Deputy Speaker, Shri Himansu Sebhar Padhi; former members of the Orissa Legislative Assembly, Sarvashri Gangadhar Paikray, Harihar Das, Sangram Keshari Mohapatra, Lal Mohan Nayak and Smt. Ananda Manjari Devi. Obituary references were also made on those who lost their lives in the cyclone in the coastal Districts of the State.

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eighth Tripura Legislative Assembly commenced its Sixth Session on 11 February 2000 and was adjourned *sine die* on 19 February 2000. The House had seven sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Tripura, Shri Siddheshwar Prasad addressed the House on 11 February 2000. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his address was moved the same day by the Minister in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Keshab Majumdar and seconded by Shri Manik Dey. The Motion was discussed on 14 and 15 February 2000 and was adopted.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Tripura Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2000; (ii) The Tripura Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000; (iii) The Tripura Sales Tax (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2000; and (iv) The Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2000.

Financial business: On 11 February 2000, the Finance Minister moved the Motion for Vote-on-Account for a part of the financial year 2000-2001. The Motion was passed on 16 February 2000. The Finance Minister also presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1999-2000 on 11 February 2000. The discussion on this was held on 16 and 18 February 2000. The Supplementary Demands were passed on 18 February 2000.

Obituary reference: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.

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* Material contributed by the Tripura Legislative Assembly Secretariat

9

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23 February 2000 to 17 May 2000 (Break—17 March to 16 April 2000)
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	38
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	209 Hours and 34 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	9
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	8
	(ii) Introduced	27
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	6
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ recommendation and laid on the Table	1
	(v) Reported by Standing Committees	5
	(vi) Referred to departmentally related Standing Committee by Speaker, Lok Sabha/Chairman Rajya Sabha	6
	(vii) Discussed	27
	(viii) Passed	27 (list enclosed)
	(ix) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	8
	(x) Pending at the end of the Session	14
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	48
	(ii) Introduced	60
	(iii) Discussed	3
	(iv) Withdrawn	2
	(v) Part Discussed	1
	(vi) Pending at the end of the session	106
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	225
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING 'ZERO HOUR'	298
9.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	189
	(ii) Admitted	6
	(iii) Discusstions held	2
	(iv) Part-discussed	2

10.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	5
11.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	23
12.	HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	3
13.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(I) Notices received	9
	(ii) Admitted	9
	(iii) Moved	3
	(iv) Adopted	1
	(v) Negatived	1
	(vi) Withdrawn	1
14.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
	(I) Notices received	3
	(ii) Admitted	3
	(iii) Moved	2
	(iv) Adopted	2
15.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Received	11
	(ii) Admitted	10
	(iii) Discussed	3
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Negatived	Nil
	(vi) Withdrawn	2
	(vii) Part-discussed	1
	(viii) Discussions postponed	Nil
16.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	2
	(ii) Admitted	2
	(iii) Discussed	Nil
17.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	383
	(ii) Admitted	81
	(iii) Moved	Nil
18.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Total no. of Notices received	42
	(ii) Brought before the House	21
	(iii) Consent withheld by Speaker outside the House	21
19.	NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED, IF ANY, DURING THE SESSION	Nil 2*

* (I) Joint Committee on Catering in Parliament House Complex
(ii) Committee on Ethics

20. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION — 27,145

21. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED — 1,588 on 17.5.2000

22. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED
    - (i) Starred — 740
    - (ii) Unstarred — 8,061
    - (iii) Short Notice Questions — 2
    - (iv) Half-an-hour discussions — 3

23. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 10

24. PETITIONS PRESENTED — 5

25. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN (with date) — 1 on 23.2.2000
1 on 28.2.2000
1 on 29.2.2000

26. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS
    - (i) Notices received — 19
    - (ii) Brought before the House — Nil
    - (iii) Consent withheld by Speaker — Nil
    - (iv) Observation made by Speaker — Nil

27. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 January to 31 March 2000	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	2	1
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members	1	1
iii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	1	—
iv)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
v)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
vi)	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	3	3
vii)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	4	2
viii)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
ix)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xi)	Estimates Committee	—	—
xii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xiii)	House Committee a) Accommodation Sub-Committee b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xiv)	Public Accounts Committee	9	1
xv)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—
xvi)	Rules Committee	—	—

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES

i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	2	—

STANDING COMMITTEES

i)	Committee on Agriculture	11	5
ii)	Committee on Communications	—	—
iii)	Committee on Defence	—	—
iv)	Committee on Energy Sub Committee	—	—
v)	Committee on External Affairs	—	—
vi)	Committee on Finance	—	—
vii)	Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	6	3
viii)	Committee on Labour and Welfare	6	2
ix)	Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	—	—
x)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xi)	Committee on Urban and Rural Development	11	5
xii)	Committee on the Empowerment of Women	1	—

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2000

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	15.3.2000 to 3.4.2000	13	24(24)	25(25)	592(226)	83[a]	41(1)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	10.1.2000 to 11.1.2000 10.3.2000 to 22.3.2000	5	—	—	435(401)	4	114(99)
Delhi L.A.	23.3.2000 to 7.4.2000	13	7(7)	4	(240)[b]	(654)	4(3)
Goa L.A.	21.3.2000 to 3.4.2000	9	12(11)	2	238(196)	12[c]	—
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	2.3.2000 to 19.4.2000	26	13(13)	—	1,202(833)	186(144)	2
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.	15.3.2000 to 3.5.2000	27	1(14)	—	373(361)	972(818)	3(1)
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.	13.3.2000 to 23.3.2000	7	2(2)	—	57(46)	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	15.3.2000 to 13.4.2000	18	5(4)	—	384(370)	121(118)	—
Nagaland	21.3.2000 to 25.3.2000	4	5(5)	—	22	9	–
Orissa L.A.	22.3.2000 to 30.3.2000	7	2	—	75(48)	41(41)	2(1)
Punjab L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	77(77)
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	17.11.1999 to 24.11.2000	6	14(14)	—	1,424(468)	(681)	(2)
Tripura L.A.	11.2.2000 to 19.2.2000	7	5(4)	—	369(286)	67(100)[d]	3
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Pondicherry L.A.	27.3.2000 to 27.3.2000	1	2(2)	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

**Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes:

a) Starred notices admitted as unstarred questions

b) Total notices received – 1037

c) 12 + 42 starred questions converted into unstared questions

d) 41 notices of starred question admitted as unstarred questions

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK/NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2000

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Govt. Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	Committee on Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SC and ST	Estimates Committee	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	1(1)	13	11	10	10	—	12	12	—	—	10	10	—	—	—	47(1)(a)
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	2	—	2(1)	1	—	—	3(1)	1	—	—	—	4(1)	1	6	—
Goa L.A.	2(1)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1(1)(b)
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	3(3)	—	5(3)	—	4	8(11)	—	12(10)	—	—	1	1	8(42)	2(1)	—	41(64)(c)
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.	6	7	9(1)	2(1)	6(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	1(1)	2(1)	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	2(1)	—	4(1)(d)
Nagaland L.A.	1	1(3)	—	—	—	1(2)	1(2)	—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Orissa L.A.	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1(e)
Punjab L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.	—	15	—	—	—	22	23	36	45	—	15	22	27	—	—	48(1)(f)
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	1	11(1)	4(3)	—	—	4(4)	2(3)	—	3	—	1	—	20(15)	—	—	3(g)
Tripura L.A.	3(3)	2	3	—	1(1)	2	2	6	3	—	1	1	12	1	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY																
Pondicherry L.A.	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	26	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

(a) Question and Call Attention Committee-11 sittings; Nivedan Committee-15 sittings; Implementation Committee-10 sittings; and Committee on District Board and Panchayati Raj-11 sittings and 1 report

(b) House Committee on'Mining Reject'-1 sitting and 1 report

(c) Committee on Agriculture and Horticulture-9 sittings and 9 reports; Committee on Health and Rural Development-6 sittings and 13 reports; Revenue Committee-5 sittings and 10 reports; Education Committee-7 sittings and 8 reports; and Public Works and Tourism Committee-7 sittings and 13 reports

(d) House Committee to Review the Existing Purchase Policy of the Government-4 sittings

(e) Committee on Paper Laid-2 sittings

(f) Rules Sub-Committee-11 sittings; Women and Child Welfare Committee-18 sittings; and Question and Reference Committee-19 sittings and 1 report

(g) Papers laid on the Table-3 sittings

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2000

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1999	21.1.2000
2.	The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2000	25.3.2000
3.	The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000	25.3.2000
4.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2000	27.3.2000
5.	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2000	27.3.2000
6.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000	27.3.2000
7.	The Appropriation Bill, 2000	27.3.2000
8.	The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000	27.3.2000

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATE AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2000

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 1999
2. The Andhra Pradesh Private Aided Educational Staff (Regulation of Pay) Bill, 1999
3. The Andhra Pradesh Oil Palm Regulation of Production and Processing (Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Andhra Pradesh Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2000
5. The Andhra Pradesh Commission for Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
7. The Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2000
8. The Andhra Pradesh Rural Electric Co-operative Societies (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
9. The Andhra Pradesh Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
10. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2000
11. The Andhra Pradesh Tax on Luxuries (Amendment) Bill, 2000
12. The A.P. Advocates Clerks' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2000
13. The Andhra Pradesh Urban Areas (Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
14. The Andhra Pradesh General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
15. The Andhra Pradesh (Agriculture Produce and Live Stock) Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2000
16. The Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000
17. The Andhra Pradesh Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 2000
18. The A.P. Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservation) Bill, 2000
19. The Andhra Pradesh Municipal laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
20. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000
21. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2000
22. The Andhra Pradesh Rural Development Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2000
23. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2000

24. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2000
25. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2000

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2000
2. The Bihar Viniyog (Lekhanudan) Vidheyak, 2000
3. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya 2) Vidheyak, 2000

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Delhi Official Language Bill, 2000
2. The Delhi Ancient and Historical Monuments and Sites and Remains Bill, 2000
3. The Delhi Tax on Luxuries (Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2000
5. The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2000
6. The Delhi Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
7. The Delhi Members of Metropolitan Council (Enhancement of Pension) Bill, 2000

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2000
2. The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000
3. The Goa Barge Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Indian Stamp (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2000
5. The Goa University (Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
7. The Goa Panchayat Raj (Third Amendment) Bill, 2000
8. The Goa Panchayat Raj (Third Amendment) Bill, 2000
9. The Goa Tax on Luxuries (Hotel and Lodging Houses) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
10. The Goa Sales Tax, Luxury Tax and Entertainment Tax (Settlement of Arrears) Bill, 2000
11. The Goa Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000

'HIMACHAL PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA

1. The H.P. Appropriation Bill, 2000
2. The H.P. Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000
3. The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (H.P.) Bill, 2000
4. The H.P. Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2000
5. The H.P. Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2000
6. The H.P. Prevention of Specific Corrupt Practices (Amendment) Bill, 2000

7. The H.P. Fire Fighting Services (Amendment) Bill, 2000
8. The H.P. Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) Repealing Bill, 2000
9. The H.P. Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2000
10. The H.P. General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
11. The H.P. Tax on Luxuries (In Hotels and Lodging Houses) Amendment Bill, 2000
12. The H.P. Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2000
13. The H.P. Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2000

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Manipur Appropriation (No.1A) Bill, 2000
2. The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2000

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Mizoram Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Mizoram Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2000
3. The Mizoram Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2000
4. The Mizoram Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2000

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Nagaland (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products including Motor Spirit, and Lubricant) Taxation Amendment Bill, 2000
2. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2000
3. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2000
4. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2000
5. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2000

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Sales Tax (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2000
2. The Orissa Appropriation (Vote-on-Account) Bill, 2000

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Punjab Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2000
2. The Punjab Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2000
3. The Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Punjab Public Premises and Land (Eviction and Rent Recovery) Amendment Bill, 2000
5. The Registration (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Punjab Entertainment Duty (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2000
7. The Punjab Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas Bill, 2000
8. The Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000

9. The Punjab Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2000
10. The Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Amendment) Bill, 2000
11. The Punjab School Education Board (Amendment) Bill, 2000
12. The Punjab General Sales Tax (Second Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2000
13. The East Punjab Ministers Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2000
14. The Salaries and Allowances of Deputy Ministers, Punjab (Amendment) Bill, 2000
15. The Punjab General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2000
16. The Punjab General Sales Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2000
17. The Punjab Social Security Bill, 2000
18. The Punjab Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2000

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2000
3. The Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment) Bill, 1999
4. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Second Amendment Bill, 1999
5. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999
7. The Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1999
8. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Seventh Amendment) Bill, 1999
9. The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Amendment) Bill, 1999
10. The Tamil Nadu Societies Registration (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999
11. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 1999
12. The Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Industrial Purposes (Amendment) Bill, 1999
13. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 1999
14. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 1999

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tripura Sales Tax (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Eight Amendment) Bill, 2000
3. The Tripura Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000
4. The Tripura Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000
*5. The Tripura Voluntary Village Defence Parties Bill, 2000

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* Awaiting assent

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2000

Sl. No.	Subject	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of cessation	Remarks
			UNION GOVERNMENT		
1.	The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	17.1.2000	23.2.2000	5.4.2000	—
2.	The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	24.1.2000	23.2.2000	5.4.2000	—
			STATE GOVERNMENTS		
			ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	The Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	23.1.2000	17.3.2000	—	—
2.	The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	25.1.2000	17.3.2000	—	—

3.	The Andhra Pradesh Mandal Parishada and Zilla Parishads (Transitional arrangements) Ordinance, 2000	5.2.2000	17.3.2000	—	—
4.	The Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	5.2.2000	17.3.2000	—	-
5.	The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	5.2.2000	17.3.2000	—	—
6.	The Hyderabad Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	15.2.2000	17.3.2000	—	—
			NAGALAND		
1.	The Nagaland (Sales of Petroleum & Petroleum Products including Motor Spirit & Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	1.1.2000	23.3.2000	—	—
			RAJASTHAN		
1.	The Rajasthan Agricultural University Ordinance, 1999	25.10.1999	—	—	—
2.	The Rajasthan Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	25.10.1999	—	—	—
3.	The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	25.10.1999	—	—	—

4.	The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	25.12.1999	—	—	—
		TAMIL NADU			
1.	The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999	22.10.1999	18.11.1999	—	—

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 24 JULY 2000)

States	Seats	INC	AIADMK	SP	CPI(M)	CPI	CPIM(L)	RJD	RSP	BSP	AIM	MUL	KCM	RLD	KC	SJP(R)	AIFB	TDP	BJP	JD(U)	SAD	BJD	AITC	JD(Samata)
Andhra Pradesh	42	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	7	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	54	4	—	—	1	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	8	—	—	—	10
Goa	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	1
Kerala	20	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	40	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	10	—	—
Punjab	13	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	2	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	85	10	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	3	—	—	21	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	9	—
Nominated	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
UNION TERRITORIES																								
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	113	10	26	33	3	1	7	3	14	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	29	183	10	2	10	9	12

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 24 JULY 2000)

STATES	SS	SAD(M)	INLD	JD(S)	DMK	MGRDMK	PMK	MDMK	HVC	BBM	J&KNC	SDF	NCP	MSCP	PWP	ABLTC	IND	TOTAL	VACANCIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	54	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
Maharashtra	15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	1	—	1	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	1
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	12	1	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	85	—
West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
UNION TERRITORIES																			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	15	1	5	1	12	1	5	4	1	1	4	1	8	1	1	2	6	544	1

Abbrevations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; INC-Indian National Congress; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (M); TDP-Telugu Desam Party; SP-Samajwadi Party; Shiv Sena; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; Janata Dal (Samata); AIADMK-All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); BJD-Biju Janata Dal; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; INLD-Indian National Lok Dal; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; J&KNC-Jammu and Kashmir National Conference; CPI-Communist Party of India; RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; ASBLC-Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal;' AIM-All India Majlis-e-ittehadul Muslilmeen; BPM-Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh; CPIM(L)-Communist Party of India (M-L) Liberation; HVC-Himachal Vikas Congress; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); KC-Kerala Congress; KC(M)-Kerala Congress (M); MSCP-Manipur State Congress Party; MGRDMK-MGR Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; PWP-Peasants and Workers Party of India; SAD(M)-Shiromani Akali Dal (SS Mann); SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front: SJP(R)-Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); and Ind-Independents.

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA
(AS ON 7 APRIL 1999)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	TDP	JD	DMK	RJD	SP	CPI	AIA-DMK(I)	Shiv Sena	SAD	Others	Indep-endents	Total	Vacan-cies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	STATES																	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	2	1	1	13	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
3.	Assam	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3(a)	—	7	—
4.	Bihar	22	2	4	—	—	1	—	10	—	2	—	—	—	3(b)	—	22	—
5.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
6.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
7.	Haryana	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(c)	—	5	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(d)	—	3	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(e)	—	4	—
10.	Karnataka	12	5	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
11.	Kerala	9	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3(f)	—	9	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—
13.	Maharashtra	19	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	2(g)	3	19	—
14	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
16.	Mizoram	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Orissa	10	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(h)	—	10	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19.	Punjab	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	7	—
20.	Rajasthan	10	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
21.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(i)	—	1	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	18	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	5	—	—	3(j)	2	18	—
23.	Tripura	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	34	2	15	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	5(k)	4	34	—
25.	West Bengal	16	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(l)	2	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES																		
26.	Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
27.	Pondicherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Nominated	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	11	12	—
	TOTAL	245	58	47	16	13	6	9	10	9	5	5	5	5	33	24	245	—

(a) Asom Gana Parishad-2; Autonomous State Demand Committee-1
(b) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha -1; Samata Party-1
(c) Indian National Lok Dal-2; Haryana Vikas Party-1
(d) Himachal Vikas Congress-1
(e) J & K National Conference-3
(f) Muslim League-2; Kerala Congress-1
(g) R.P.I.-1; N.C.P.-1
(h) Biju Janata Dal-3
(i) Sikkim Demoratic Front-1
(j) Tamil Manila Congress-3
(k) Bahujan Samaj Party-4; Akhil Bhartiya Loktantrik Congress-1

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	Cong.(I)	Janata Dal	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	Others Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	295	90	—	12	2	—	184[a]	5	293	2
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C. (1.4.2000)	58	8	2	5	1	2	28[b]	6	52	6
Delhi L.A. (1.4.2000)	70	53	1	14	—	—	—	2	70	—
Goa L.A. (1.4.2000)	40	15	—	10	—	—	14[c]	1	40	—
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	68	28	—	35	—	—	4[d]	1	68	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.	75	22	5	12	—	—	30[e]	3	72[e]	2
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A. (1.4.2000)	40	6	—	—	—	—	34[c]	—	40	—
Nagaland L.A. (31.3.2000)	60	51	—	—	—	—	—	8	59	1
Orissa L.A. (31.3.2000)	147	26	—	38	1	1	72[b]	8	147	—
Punjab L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A. (31.12.1999)	200	152	3	28	1	—	3[d]	7	194	6
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A. (31.12.1999)	235	—	1	1	8	2	218[a]	1	231@	3
Tripura L.A.	60	—	—	—	1	38	19[b]	2	60	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY										
Pondicherry L.A.	33	8	1	—	2	—	19[c]	2	32@	—

@Excluding Speaker

* Information received from the State/Union territories Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territories Legislatures

a) Telugu Desam Party–179; All India Majlis Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen-4; and Nominated–1

b) RJD-25; MCC-1; JD(U)-1; and Unattached-6

c) Goa Peoples Congress-11; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-2; and Nationalist Congress Party-1

d) Himachal Vikas Congress-3; and Unattached-1

e) Janatha Dal (Secular)-18; Janatha Dal (United)-5; Separate Legislatures Group of Janatha Dal-5; and Lok Shakti-2

f) Manipur State Congress Party-23; Federal Party of Manipur-6; Manipur People's Party-1; Nationalist Congress Party-1; Janata Dal (S)-1; Samata Party-1; Manipur Peoples Party (K)-3; Nationalist Congress Party (O)-3; Nationalist Congress Party (D)-1; Rashtriya Janata Dal (H)-1; and Janata Dal (Z)-1

g) Mizo National Front-22; and Mizoram People's Conference-12

h) Biju Janata Dal-68; J.M.M.-3; and AITC-1

(i) BSP-2; and RJD-1

j) DMK-163; TMC (Moopanar)-38; AIADMK-4; Indian National League-3; Pattali Makkal Katchi-3; All India Forward Bloc-2; Tamil Maanila National League-2; Puthiya Tamilagam-1; Unattached-1; and Nominated-1

k) RSP-2; NC-13; and TUJS-4

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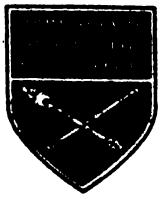

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